

THE North-China Herald

AND

SUPREME COURT & CONSULAR GAZETTE.

VOL. XLIII., No. 1151. SHANGHAI, AUGUST 24, 1889. PRICE, Tls. 12 ½ AN.

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Shanghai mail advices of 13th July were received in London on the 20th inst.

The North-China Herald.

IMPARTIAL NOT NEUTRAL.

SHANGHAI, SATURDAY, 24 AUG. 1889.

In the *Peking Gazette* of the 29th of July there was a notice, emanating from the Governor of Shantung, of the work he had done in repairing the portion of the Yellow River that runs through his province and in excavating the lower portion of the bed. Chang Yao reported to the Throne that all the breaches had been repaired and the banks firmly secured; he eulogised in high terms the officers to whose exertions this satis-

factory state of things was due, and requested that fitting rewards should be conferred on the most deserving. The very next day, July 30th, appeared the Imperial decree announcing that these very embankments had burst, and a grave inundation was the result. It is not necessary to believe that Chang Yao wilfully deceived the Throne in his report which appeared on the 29th; Wu Ta-cheng, who had recently inspected the embankments in Shantung, made a similarly favourable report on them; and no doubt these banks do look all right until they go, though they did not entirely satisfy the more critical eye of the foreigner who reported on them last, the Rev. Gilbert Reid. The fact seems to be that neither the Governor of Shantung nor the Director-General of the River can be held personally liable for these outbreaks; the whole system is in fault, and for that it is Peking that is responsible. The Throne and the Cabinet will not use the knowledge that has been placed at their disposal.

A detailed description of what the present flood on the south side of the river is, is given in the letter from an eyewitness, the Rev. A. G. Jones, which we publish elsewhere to-day. There appears to have been little loss of life in connection with it, for it came on very slowly. The embankments, as is well-known, are made chiefly of sand, bound together with millet stalks. As the Yellow River rose nearly to the top of the embankments, the pressure on their bases became more than their loose constituents could stand, and the water began to ooze through. Mr. Jones's description of this oozing is very graphic. "The gradual rise of the water had forced a considerable quantity to ooze out through and under the bank. Last winter this was the case also. It then wet the ground for about a hundred yards inland; now it was oozing, or oozing and then spreading, for six to nine hundred yards inland at the narrowest, and in some places this ooze-water spread two miles and more over the ground. The city of Pu-tai inside the bank, which has a special loop-dyke to protect it, was then already half full of this ooze-water." This relief, however, to the pressure of the water was quite insufficient; the bank, softened by this infiltration, was certain to go somewhere, notwithstanding the strenuous efforts that were made to strengthen it where it shewed signs of weakness; and on the 22nd of July it burst at

Chang-kin, the breach or breaches, for it is said that there are thirteen of them, extending some 3,000 feet, and the water, when Mr. Jones wrote, covering and ruining the crops over an area estimated at from 2,000 to 2,300 square miles, in which the waste land towards the sea shore is not included. The Yellow River cannot get to sea fast enough through its proper mouth, and has tried to find another outlet, and it has found it in the Siao Tsing Ho, which will be found running due east from a point on the right bank of the Huang Ho about half way between Chinan Fu and the sea.

We asked about a fortnight ago, what is to be done with the Yellow River?, and we suggested that as it is obvious that the present north-eastern mouth has been so neglected—although Chang Yao takes praise to himself for dredging it—as to become quite inadequate to carry off the water at the recurring freshets, that it would have been wise to let a part of it at least go out by the old south-eastern course which it resumed two years ago. This suggestion was confirmed in the very able letter from our correspondent "W." which we published last week. He gives three good arguments for the adoption of this course; it would follow a natural depression to the sea, and so need less labour and embankment to keep it good; it would open water communication between Shanghai and Shansi; it would be making provision for the future development of China. First of all, however, as has been urged over and over again, and as the present Director General has himself impressed on the Throne, a scientific survey of the whole of the river, from where it leaves the mountains to enter the plain, is indispensable.

There are two difficulties in the way of properly regulating the river. The officials do not altogether dislike the present state of things; when the river breaks out they persuade the Throne that it is an unavoidable accident; when it is restrained again there is a flow of honours, promotion, and rewards to those by whose energy and activity it is controlled. The semi-independence of the provinces is the other great obstacle; the authorities of one province do not care the least what harm the river does in another so long as they can get rid of it from their own. "It is obvious," says W., "that the officials' persistency in closing the

breach at Chêng-chow without clearing the river exit to the sea seems as if they were absolutely careless whether it destroyed another portion of their country or not." It is true that there is a Director-General of the whole river, who is one of the highest officials, next to the Viceroy himself, in the Empire; but the work is too large for any one man; and he must trust to the reports of the Governors of the provinces through which the river flows.

Probably we are all of us beating the air. Chang Yao will pile up the sand again in the breaches at Chang-kiu, and report that all is in order, and the Throne will be satisfied until the next freshet comes, when the river will break out somewhere else, and the weary round will be repeated.

Summary of News.

The French mail of 12th July arrived here on the 18th inst., by the M.M. Co.'s str. *Iraouaddy*.

The English mail of 19th July arrived here this morning, by the P. & O. Co.'s str. *Rohilla*.

A mail leaves to-morrow morning for Europe, by the M.M. Co.'s str. *Shogalien*.

LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

[BY EASTERN EXTENSION A. AND C. TEL. CO.]
(THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.)

STILL THICKENING.

London, 16th August.

Three French ironclads have been sent to Crete.

AN UNPALATABLE CONCESSION.

The Government have agreed to amend the Tithes Bill, making landlords liable instead of occupiers, which involves a prolonged session.

NO ENTANGLING ALLIANCES.

London, 19th August.

The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs replying to a question denied that support had been promised to the Triple Alliance against France and Russia; in case of war being declared, England was entirely free.

Mr. Smith said that the Government was not hostile to France but considered her the best of friends.

ONLY IN PLAY.

Admiral Tracey (? Tryon) has captured three of Admiral Baird's vessels off Ushant.

THE SULTAN SAVED.

London, 21st August.

H.M.S. *Sultan* has been floated.

ADMIRAL TRYON'S SUCCESS.

Rear-Admiral Tryon has blockaded Rear-Admiral Baird with eight ships in Queenstown.

A NEW GOVERNOR FOR CEYLON.

Sir Arthur Havelock has been appointed Governor of Ceylon.

A STRIKE AT THE DOCKS.

London, 22nd August.

A Strike of the London dock labourers in the tea warehouses is preventing the drawing of samples and the discharge of steamers.

SPAIN.

Madrid, 2nd Aug.

The Ministers have assembled in Council with the Queen Regent. The loan to the Philippines will not be introduced until next January.

The new Spanish civil code has been extended to the colonies, including the Philippines.

The Royal family have gone to San Sebastian.

The further trial of the submarine vessel *Peral* has had excellent results.—*Comercio*.

INAUGURATION OF THE SORBONNE.

Paris, 5th August.

The President of the Republic to-day inaugurated the Sorbonne in presence of the Cabinet, the diplomatic corps, and a large crowd of French and foreign students.

DEATH OF FELIX PYAT.

M. Félix Pyat is dead.

THE CONSEILS GENERAUX ELECTIONS.

The second ballots for the Conseils Généraux elections took place yesterday: 127 Republicans and 49 Conservatives were returned.

GENERAL BOULANGER.

6th August.

General Boulanger has issued another manifesto, in which he protests against the charge of peculation made against him.

8th August.

The trial of General Boulanger and his friends before the High Court has begun. The accused will be judged in contumacy.

DEATH OF SIGNOR CAIROLI.

Signor Cairoli is dead.—*Havas*.

ROUT OF THE DERVISHES AND DEATH OF THEIR LEADER.

Cairo, 5th August.

General Grenfell has utterly routed the Dervishes near Toski. Wad-el Njumi, twelve Emirs, and fifteen hundred men were slain. The Egyptian loss was slight.

THE BRITISH NAVAL REVIEW.

London, 6th August.

The Review was a brilliant success. After the inspection the German Emperor received the Admirals and Captains.

The Emperor has appointed the Queen Colonel of the Prussian Dragoon Guards, a deputation from which regiment is coming over to Osborne to present its respects.

THE EMPEROR WILLIAM'S VISIT TO HIS GRANDMOTHER.

7th August.

The Emperor of Germany has been much gratified by his reception and has consented to prolong his stay in England until Friday.

The Queen has received the deputation from her regiment of Prussian Dragoon Guards.—*Singapore Papers*.

We take the following telegrams as to Crete from *The Times* received by the mail on Sunday:—

Vienna, 11th July.

The semi-official *Presse* and the *Deutsche Zeitung*, discussing the Cretan question, remark that the disturbances in Candia are due to the double-faced policy of the Greek Government. Greece has been quietly fomenting disaffection in the island, but was minded that no riots should break out until after the marriage of the Duke of Sparta with the Princess Sophia. Events disappointed M. Tricupis's calculations, and now, to this politician's disgust, it appears that the strongest, most active, and most intelligent part of the Cretan population wishes to see Candia independent, under British protection.

The *Presse* opines that Great Britain has colonial responsibilities enough already, but other journals remark that the future of Crete would be safer in British hands than in those of the Greek Government. Public opinion in Vienna appears to hold that, considering the position which Great Britain has assumed in Egypt, the Cretan

question concerns the United Kingdom more than any other European Power.

Canea, 12th July.

Mahmoud Djelal-ed-Din Pasha, the Ottoman Commissioner, who was sent to Crete with the object of pacifying the island, has been suddenly recalled to Constantinople. The affairs of the island are still unsettled.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK.

(Thermometers in the open air in a shaded situation in the English Settlement.)

1889.

	Fahr. Thermometer.		Rainfall in inches.
	Min.	Max.	
August 17	78° 0	95° 6	.....
" 18	80° 2	97° 2	0.01
" 19	79° 2	89° 4	1.21
" 20	74° 5	90° 3	0.28
" 21	78° 5	91° 4	.....
" 22	79° 5	91° 4	.....
" 23	76° 0	85° 0	0.55
1888.			
August 17	79° 0	89° 0	.....
" 18	80° 0	90° 0	.....
" 19	80° 0	96° 0	0.20
" 20	75° 0	90° 0	.....
" 21	76° 0	96° 0	.....
" 22	74° 5	90° 0	0.40
" 23	75° 0	93° 0	0.39

The Sicawei weather report of Saturday was as follows:—High barometric pressure prevails over the south part of Japan. Pressure is rising at Sicawei and all the southern ports on the China coast. Fair weather may be expected, with moderate and variable winds.—On Monday it read as follows: On Sunday afternoon the barometer was falling over the southern coast, the winds remaining moderate and variable, with heavy rains at Manila. There was a rapid fall of the barometer at Nagasaki, and a centre of depression, perhaps a typhoon, appears to exist to the East of the Loochoo Islands, so that the weather to-day is unsettled.—The weather report issued on Tuesday showed that the typhoon, pointed out on the previous day as raging over the Pacific east of Loochoo Islands, was stated by the Manila Observatory to be a little more in the south, and E.N.E. of Luzon. Its precise position was, however, unknown. There was a quick fall of the barometer at Foochow, so that station was probably threatened with bad weather.—On Wednesday it read as follows: According to telegrams, it looks as if there were two or three low atmospheric depressions, the more violent of which denoted typhoons over the Pacific which will probably pass to the north of Luzon, going westward. On Tuesday afternoon the wind blew with a force of 7 from S.W. at Manila.—Thursday's weather report was as follows: Pressure steady at Sicawei, Foochow and Manila; falling at Hongkong and Amoy. Typhoon to south of Formosa or over southern part of the island, and will probably pass north of Hongkong.—The Sicawei report at 10 a.m. yesterday read as follows: The barometer remains low and is steady at Sicawei and Amoy; it is rising slowly with strong breeze from the south at Manila, and with light breeze at Hongkong; it is decidedly falling at Foochow. It is thus difficult to understand what has become of the typhoon. Unless it is passing over the north of Luzon, it should be crossing the China Sea towards the S.W. The weather is unsettled along the coast.

On the 18th instant, was the hottest day so far this month, the thermometer in the settlement reaching 97° 2. The storm that came up soon after 4 o'clock, and passed over with very little rain falling, lowered the mercury 15 degrees, the dry bulb at 5 p.m. standing at only 82°, or less than two degrees over the minimum of the previous night.

His Ex. J. H. Ferguson, Netherlands Minister to Peking, returned to Shanghai by the *Taisang* on Tuesday.

We understand that Sir Robert Hart is not likely to leave Peking for home this year.

H.E. Shao, formerly Taotai of Shanghai, and now promoted to be Governor of Honan, left in the *Haeen* for Peking for audience at the Palace. A large number of soldiers were drawn up at Kinleeyuen and saluted him as he went on board.

H.E. Huang, the acting Governor of this province, inspected the Soochow Creek on Wednesday, and this is the reason all the boats had to clear out of the Creek on Tuesday. H.E. proceeds to Nanking for the Examinations.

We gather from the letter of our correspondent with the fleet that the northern cruise of the British squadron this year is to be confined to Japanese waters, Bakhodadi being kept as the base. Apparently, in the present condition of affairs in Europe, Admiral Salmon is anxious to keep within reach of the telegraph.

The Austro-Hungarian Consulate was tastefully decorated and illuminated on Sunday on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday anniversary. Inside the building were flags, while outside were Chinese and Japanese lanterns arranged to form the words "Viribus Unitis" the motto of the empire. M. Blondin, the French Municipal Engineer, kindly lent his services in carrying out the decorations. The Town Band under the able leadership of the Chev. Vela discoursed appropriate music during the evening. M. R. de Villard designed the menu card. On this card were views of Prague, Vienna and Buda Pesth, with a photograph of the Emperor Francis Joseph I. During the evening four toasts were given, "the Emperor," "the Consul," "the Ladies" and "Our Countrymen at Home." The guests included most of the Austrian residents and their wives.

The *Chinese Times* reprints from the *Shih Pao* the following recognition of foreign surgical skill:—On the night of the 8th instant, a daring robbery was perpetrated on the premises of a street constable named Li, who lived inside the Sung-wen Men at Peking, in the Min Hua Alley. While plundering, the robbers discharged their firearms, hitting Li in the left eye, besides inflicting another wound on the occiput. The wounds were of a most serious nature, and Chinese surgical assistance was called in, but they all declined to take the case in hand. Finally the services of Dr. Dudgeon were sought for, and when he had examined the patient, he pronounced the wounds perfectly amenable to treatment, but could not guarantee the recovery of the injured eye. From this, the great utility of Western physicians, and the utter uselessness of native practitioners will be readily seen.

Among the telegraphic news is recorded the death of two Continental celebrities, Signor Cairoli and M. Felix Pyat. The former was born at Pavia in 1826, and took part in the Milan rising of 1848 and in the war against Austria which succeeded. He joined the Garibaldian Legion, and was in all the chief engagements in 1859-60, being severely wounded at Palermo. In 1868 he was fighting for Italy in the Trentino, and in the same year was elected a Deputy and became one of the leaders of the Extreme Left. In 1878 he was Prime Minister, and was badly stabbed in November of that year while defending King Humbert against an assassin. In 1879 he replaced Depretis, by whom he had been himself replaced and was to be succeeded, as Prime Minister, holding the post until 1881. Mr. Felix Pyat was one of the few surviving witnesses of the Revolution of 1830 and leaders in that of 1848. From 1840, when he joined the Communist leader Ledru Rollin, M. Pyat's record is one of constant conflict with the French authorities. He was exiled for many years, was condemned to death *par contumace* in 1873 for incitement to civil war, and was sentenced to fine and imprisonment (not always inflicted) times without number. He conducted at different times many political journals, and wrote a number of plays, containing political

allusions, which were very successful in their day. Since the amnesty of 1880, which permitted him to return to France, M. Pyat had contented himself with anonymous contributions to Radical papers. He had nearly attained his 79th year.

There is apt to be an idea that the interference of Greece with the Turkish island of Crete springs from nothing but meddlesome ambition, but this is not so. The extent of the island is 3,320 square miles, and of the population, which is something under 300,000, at least two-thirds are Greeks, while modern Greek is the language of both Greeks and Moslems. If the principle of nationality is to be allowed, the island should belong to Greece, while Crete would no doubt advance greatly if it were relieved of the oppression and corruption of the Turkish government, to which the constant riots and insurrections, by which its progress is retarded, are mainly due.

We have not criticised in any way the finding of the Court of Enquiry into the stranding of the *Fungshun*, because it is impossible to do so satisfactorily without seeing the evidence given. There seems to be, however, some feeling among seafaring men in Shanghai that the censure passed on the chief officer, Mr. Frahm, was hardly deserved, seeing that the master was on the bridge and actually in charge at the time of the accident, and that in such a case no chief officer likes to interfere.

The author of the admirable 'Pocket Chinese and English Vocabulary,' which we noticed on the 30th July, has followed that little book with a compilation on Chinese paper comprising all the characters in Dr. Williams' Dictionary on the same system. To find any character it is necessary to look first for the number of the radical on the margin of the page, and then on the page itself for the number of the radical under which the remaining or phonetic portion of the character comes, which is very quickly done with a little practice. The book has been printed and bound at the American Presbyterian Mission Press, Shanghai, and does credit to that establishment.

We have received some specimen copies of *The Buddhist*, an eight-page paper in octavo, which is published weekly at Colombo, and claims to be "the organ of the Southern Church of Buddhism." The numbers before us are given up to the glorification of the "noble Colonel Olcott" and his recent glorious trip to Japan, where he delivered seventy-six public addresses to average audiences of 2,500—"a feat", we are told, "which would do credit to any intellect on earth." Next in importance to eulogy of Colonel Olcott is abuse of Sir Monier Williams for his recent book on *Buddhism*, which the "revered Founder," Madame Blavatzky, characterises as a "new pseudo-Oriental dirge." In the prospectus which accompanies the numbers sent us we are assured that the position of the *Buddhist* is "absolutely unique, and all, whether in the East or the West, who are interested in the glorious religion founded by the noble Gautama" (not Madame Blavatzky this time) "should certainly subscribe to it;" all, in fact, who, in the words of the High Priest Sumangala of Ceylon, are "struggling against the maleficent influence of Christianity." No. 30, however,—published on the Full Moon of Asala, 2433, or 12th July, 1889—is redeemed by the presence of a poem by Sir Edwin Arnold, written specially for the *Buddhist*, being a translation of Chapter I of the *Dhammapada*, a collection of the moral sayings of Gautama, in his own words, made at the first great council of the Buddhist Church, "held in the year after the passing away of our Lord Buddha."

We have received No. 31, which commences the fourteenth volume, of *Excursions et Reconnaissances*, published by the Colonial Printing Office at Saigon, a handsome brochure of 140 pages. This number con-

tains three articles. The first, by Père Aymonier, is the opening part of a work on the writing, dialects, history, manners, and customs of the Chams, the ancient masters of Annam properly so called. This part deals with their grammar, and is illustrated by some lithographs of their writing and their curiously cursive alphabets. Next comes a portion of a romanised version, with translation in French prose, of an Annamite rhymed tragedy, written in extremely grandiloquent language. For this M. Chéon is responsible. The last is a memorandum by M. Deschaseaux, Administrator of native affairs, on the ancient *dôn diên*, or Annamite military colonies in Lower Cochinchina, as to which we are told they were never completely organised or regulated, and have therefore left little trace in the memory of the people, so that the history of their origin and development remains somewhat obscure; but the writer is of opinion that had they had time, they would have been of great service to the prosperity of the country.

We have received a copy of the *Friend of China* for July, which is more rabid than ever. It contains the accounts for 1888 of the Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, and we see that the total receipts for the year were £299 17s., of which no less a sum than £1 3s. 9d. was derived from the sale of the Society's publications. The expenditure was £354 5s. 2d.; of which £149 12s. went in the salaries of secretary and clerk.

Some interesting particulars of the work which is being done in different directions by missionaries in China, are given in three recently issued pamphlets—the annual reports of the Hangchow Medical Mission, of the North-China Commissioners for Foreign Missions, and of the Home for Eurasian Girls, Hankow. The Hospital connected with the first of these institutions appears to have attracted a large number of Chinese. During 1888 there were 8,594 out-patients and 551 in-patients. But the statistics of the evangelical portion of the work are vague; and it would seem that the Celestial prefers to get what benefit he can from Western medicine without Western religion. The pages of this report bear testimony to the prevalence of opium smoking. Of 103 persons admitted to be cured, a large proportion had cultivated the habit for three years. One patient owned to 13 years of opium smoking. Unfortunately, a man once cured cannot always refrain from a return to the pipe; and Dr. Main (by whom the report is drawn up) mentions that patients have sought admission to the Opium Refuge for the fifth time, during the Hospital's existence of seven years. Leprosy, it appears, is common in the hospital district, as are malarial fevers. The native notion on the etiology of quartan ague is worth reproducing. "The patient is supposed to be taken possession of by four demons. The cold stage is produced by one of the demons fanning his subject cold; the hot stage is caused by another demon blowing him hot; the severe headache is due to the third demon piercing his head with a sharp instrument; and the soreness in the bones and general *malaise* is due to number four giving him a sound pounding. The report is enriched with woodcuts and a Chinese leaflet, entitled "Come to Jesus."—The report of the American Board Mission gives particulars of the year's doings at each of the seven stations. The work seems to have been in full swing, but the numbers of natives given as attending the schools, services, &c., is still very small, and points to the extreme insignificance of the evangelisation actually accomplished among the dense mass of humanity in China. In the Peking section of the report we are told of one "Mr. Kuo, a tailor who was employed in making the wedding trousseau of the young Empress, previous to her late marriage. The zeal and good sense displayed by this man were the means

of introducing the Scriptures to the notice of the mother of the Empress, and to the household, and led to a request on their part for an exhibition at the residence of the parents of the Empress, of the sciopticon pictures representing the principal scenes in New Testament history. Much prayer has been put up that more light may penetrate into high places through this rift so unexpectedly opened almost into the Imperial Palace itself.—From the report of the Home for Eurasian Girls it appears that the institution in question was opened by the Rev. Arnold and Mrs. Foster last January, with four children. Only three others have since been received; and, in Mr. Foster's words "the experience of the past 15 months seems to show that however many Eurasian girls there may be in China, there are very few whose parents wish to give them an English education." The education of the inmates of the Home seems to be directed with a view to fitting the girls for situations as nursery governesses in English families in China. It has been found necessary to admit to the Home no girl over nine years, unless coming from a thoroughly respectable home, in order to avoid the contamination of young children by contact with older girls who might have been brought up in less desirable surroundings. Mainly owing to some liberal donations from England, the financial position of the Home is satisfactory, there being a balance in hand of \$1,746.

While mentioning Dr. Duncan Main's report for 1888 of the Hangchow Hospital, we have also to notice the little book of "Hospital Notes," by Mrs. Main, which accompanies her husband's larger work. It is chiefly devoted to the story of some young women patients who shewed themselves much interested in the Gospel, but of whom three unfortunately died, and one was baptised. It is interesting to learn that the wife of the wealthy Salt Commissioner of Hangchow sent to the hospital to be cured of opium smoking. The treatment was successful, and the lady not only paid the fee of \$30 asked her, but sent a present of \$50 and promised to send an annual contribution to the funds. The Salt Commissioner himself, too, called at the Hospital to express his thanks for his wife's cure.

At the Civil Summary Court on Monday, before Chief Justice Rennie, a Hongkew storekeeper named Abram Lee, who was fined last week for assaulting a Japanese woman with whom he had been living, was sued by the same woman for the sum of \$40, money lent, and acknowledged in promissory notes. His Lordship ordered payment of the amount claimed, with \$3 costs. Defendant said he had no money.

Bernard McCarthy, a "donkeyman" employed on board the Ocean Steamship Co.'s steamer *Diomed*, was charged before Chief Justice Rennie on Tuesday with desertion. McCarthy admitted the charge, and said he had deserted on account of the treatment he had received from the chief engineer, who had made him work 200 hours overtime on the voyage. His Lordship passed sentence of one month's imprisonment, but said that the prisoner would be liberated if he were willing to rejoin the steamer at Hongkong.

A Chinaman named Chu Yeh Ching is at present under remand in the cells of the Mixed Court, charged with the commission of two impudent robberies. He appears to have calmly appropriated a bale of lastings and a bale of Spanish stripes, valued respectively at \$192 and \$276. The bales in question were left, one in the street, and another on a pontoon; the accused ordered a coolie to carry them then and there to his own house, where some of the goods were afterwards found. Mr. Yeh Ching will shortly be brought up again at the Mixed Court for sentence.

The residents of Chinkiang having challenged the *Merlin* to a one day's cricket

match, the event came off on Saturday. Having won the toss, the Chinkiang men with mistaken confidence elected to field. The *Merlins* took every advantage of their innings, and in spite of a 'tail' made 105 runs, of which amount a boy named White contributed 47 by very free hitting. The Chinkiang men went in and lost a wicket the first ball and two in the first over. Three wickets fell for no runs. The innings closed for the magnificent total of 9 runs in eight overs, occupying about a quarter of an hour. The *Merlins* have to thank Mr. Norman in a great measure for this result, his twists being very deadly.

The *Merlin* Snow-flakes gave a Christy Minstrel performance at Hankow on the 24th ult. in aid of the Pennsylvania Relief fund—and were able to hand over a cheque for £21 to the American Consul (Mr. Franklin)—who forwarded it to the Hon. W. F. Wharton, Ass. Secretary of State, Washington.

Messrs. Bandinel & Co. write from Newchwang, under date the 15th, that accounts of the growing crops are good, and produce is much cheaper, with 600,000 piculs beans in stock.

The *Foochow Echo* mentions the death on the 3rd instant of Lien Hsing, a Manchu, Provincial Judge of Fukien. The same paper records the capture by the natives in a pit of a large tiger that has been prowling about the Kuliang hills for some time, and robbing the villagers of pigs, goats and dogs.

Our Foochow contemporary complains bitterly of a steamer like the *Pechili*, with no first-class passenger accommodation, being placed on the Shanghai-Foochow line, and remarks that "a few days ago, two passengers were booked who had to sleep on the couches in a very small saloon—there being not a single first class cabin."—It adds that this is the more surprising, considering that the fares between Foochow and Shanghai or Hongkong are higher than almost anywhere else in the world. Passengers who pay these fares are certainly entitled to expect suitable accommodation.

The Japanese Government have determined to dispense entirely with the services of foreigners as secretaries in their legations abroad. This involves the closing of the engagements of Mr. Marshall at Paris, Mr. Stuart Lane at London, and Baron von Siebold at Berlin, and probably Mr. Stevens at Washington; but in every case a liberal pension for life has been granted, a very commendable act. The *London and China Express* believes that in cases where the retired foreign secretary continues to reside in the same capital it is understood that his services are still available should the Minister find himself in a position of difficulty.

The *Japan Mail* asserts that "there is no uneasiness felt here with regard to an influx of Chinese under the revised treaties, for the simple reason that the revised treaties will add nothing to the privileges at present enjoyed by the Chinese in Japan. The general public seems to be unaware that China is not included in the coalition of foreign Powers with the members of which Japan is now negotiating. China's Treaty with Japan is a thing apart. . . . Treaty Revision now in progress will not affect China at all, except in respect of the tariff. Her subjects will remain confined within the present Treaty Limits, and will retain their consular courts as hitherto. When China can properly claim for herself an equal status with Western States in respect of laws and their administration, it will be time enough for her to claim an equal status with them in respect of the privileges their subjects and citizens enjoy in Japan. No doubt the day will come when Japan will have to give serious attention to the question of Chinese immigration, but for the present this troublesome problem need not distress her."

From Japanese papers brought by the mail last evening we learn that on the arrival of the *Nagato Maru* at Hakodadi on the 7th an enormous sunfish was found fixed to her stem. It was about 9 feet in length and weighed about a ton, and was sold for the benefit of the crew for \$9. The departure of the *City of Sydney* from San Francisco has been postponed to Sept. 4th. We are assured that there is not a word of truth in the reports that there is any delay or difficulty in the work of Treaty Revision. It is understood that the new Treaty between Japan and France is concluded, but not yet signed, as it has to be sent to Paris for approval.

The *Japan Mail* says that a telegram was despatched by the Home Office on the 26th ultimo to Count Yamagata, who is now in Europe, requesting His Excellency to leave for Japan as soon as possible. It is believed that the Cabinet have asked the Count for his views in reference to treaty revision. In a telegram received by the authorities in reply to theirs of the 26th ultimo, His Excellency asks his colleagues to suspend negotiations on treaty revision for a short time, as he intends to start for home and holds strong opinions on the subject.—Count Yamagata is a member of the Cabinet, and Minister of State for Home Affairs.

The *Rising Sun* of the 14th inst. says:—The Portuguese gunboat *Rio Lima* is still here, waiting orders from Lisbon.—The U. S. S. *Palos* arrived from Chemulpo on Sunday a.m. last, and is in harbour at date.—Slight shocks of earthquake still continue to be experienced at Kumamoto from time to time, but the people are gradually regaining confidence, and are returning to their houses and resuming their occupations.—Special permission has been granted by the government to the Rev. Father Fraineau, of the Catholic Mission, to reside at Urakami at the head of the bay. Urakami is outside of the Settlement, but within the treaty limits. The permission given is available for three years.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* says that a commission has just been named at Paris to study the various proposals for railways in Tongking, and the tenders made for their construction.

The *Daily Press* says that it was rumoured in Canton that Kao Chung-chi, the new Governor of Kuangsi, whose last appointment was Provincial Treasurer of Kuangtung, has died at his post in Kweilin.

A Chinese correspondent in Canton of the *Hongkong Telegraph*, after describing the reception by the Viceroy of the Imperial courier who brought the order for his removal to Wuchang, adds:—The courier having been conducted to the quarters provided for him, Chang Chi-tung, having taken off his court robes, immediately summoned in conclave his personal officers and, the *fiat* has now gone forth that all works in embryo or in progress are to be forthwith stopped, dating from the 6th instant. And so the works in connection with the Mint, of which so much has been expected are to be stopped, and the bunding of the Canton River along the northern shore of the city, a considerable portion of which has already been completed, must also be suspended. The Kowloon-Canton Railway project also temporarily falls through, but with the reservation, as I am informed, that the works are only suspended pending the arrival of the new Viceroy, His Excellency Li Han-chang, to whom Chang Chi-tung will recommend the continuance of these works. If the new Viceroy assents, well and good; if not, then farewell to progress and general holiday for all! The general opinion is, however, that under the spur of the progressive Grand Secretary, Li Hung-chang, not only will these works be continued, but further improvements will be forthcoming. The Chinese say that it is a shame that Canton, being the first port

opened to foreign commerce, should be so much behind Shanghai in local improvements, etc. Let us hope that all undertakings will be taken in this light, and that a new era of progress will dawn for the metropolis of Southern China with the advent of a new Viceroy.

The *Hongkong Telegraph* gives the following summary of a remarkable case that has occupied the Acting Chief Justice in Hongkong for three days. We notice that when it was over, a warrant was obtained against Mr. Yu Sui-wan, formerly interpreter at the U.S. Consulate, Canton, on a charge of forgery, but that gentleman, it was found, had fled to Canton directly he left the witness box. It was, briefly, an application made by Shang Him Yung, and Yu Hok Lin, the former a Chinese naval lieutenant and the latter his wife, against Mr. Creasy Ewens, as manager of the Green Island Cement Company, Limited, for a mandamus to compel the defendant to register them as owners of 270 shares in that Company, which he had refused to do, and as an alternative \$15,000 damages were claimed. Mr. Robinson, instructed by Mr. Stokes, appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Francis, Q.C., instructed by Messrs. Ewens and Rees, defended. The plaintiffs' case was that they gave one Yu Sui-wan, brother to the female plaintiff, who was a Chinese clerk in the defendant's office, certain money to invest. Among other intricate transactions the shares in question were bought, and after the company had gone through several changes of name, plaintiffs found that they were not registered as the owners of the shares. On applying to be so registered they were refused. Yu Sui-wan, the brother, alleging that they were his. Formal evidence having been given of the plaintiffs' right, Yu Sui-wan, the real defendant, was called, and categorically denied the plaintiffs' right to the shares. He repudiated his own handwriting on various documents, made a variety of wavering statements, and only reluctantly admitted a lot of shady incidents in his past career. He said Mr. Ewens paid him \$6,000 a year, and that he himself, from starting a penniless clerk, was worth \$150,000. On the hearing next morning being resumed he continued his extraordinary style of prevarication, and after a while Mr. Francis agreed to let the plaintiffs take judgment, with \$2,700 damages. His Lordship then said that he would not deal with the witness under his own summary powers, but would order the papers to be impounded and handed over to the Public Prosecutor, who would take further steps.

According to the finding of the Marine Court of Enquiry in Hongkong into the loss of the *Altmarraig*, that vessel struck exactly on the North Pole, for both the *Daily Press* and the *China Mail* represent the accident as having occurred in Lat. 90 N. It has always been a question how, when the North Pole is reached, the discoverer will determine his longitude, and a New York paper pointed out this difficulty, and shewed that if a man once got to the Pole he would have to stay there, as every direction from the North Pole being south, he could not possibly know which to take. It would be interesting to know how the Hongkong Naval Court solved the question, as they must have done, for they were able to place the point at which the *Altmarraig* struck at Long. 118.20 E.

The following extract from a report, dated 20th July, of an interview with Mr. Trikoupis, the Greek prime minister, will be read with interest at the present juncture:—"When asked if he thought England would prevent the Greeks from occupying Crete, Mr. Trikoupis said: "Although the former coercive action of England against Greece was not by any means popular in England, the present English Government was quite prepared to repeat the coercive policy against Greece if occasion

arose." Mr. Trikoupis had a high opinion of the toughness shown by the Bulgarians in the prolonged crisis through which they have passed. He did not believe, however, that the position of Prince Ferdinand was likely to be durable, or that Russian influence could, in the long run, be prevented from re-asserting itself. He considered, indeed, that the anti-Russian attitude of M. Stambouloff had always been counter to the secret inclinations of the numerical majority of the Bulgarians, and it was this fact that made his long continuance in office more remarkable. With regard to Macedonia, Mr. Trikoupis said: "Turkey is going almost too fast. When a great war comes, as it inevitably must within the next few years, Macedonia will belong to Greece or Bulgaria according as one or other wins. If the Bulgarians take it I do not doubt that in a few years they will be able to Slavienise the population upon the Thessalian border. If we take it we shall be able to make the people Greeks right away." The bulk of the inhabitants of Eastern Roumelia have no pronounced nationality. They are ready to receive whatever stamp is impressed upon them. Meanwhile, as a great crisis in its destinies is drawing nearer and nearer, Greece is arming, as best it may. Great attention is being paid to naval preparations, and three new ironclads are at this moment in course of construction for the Greek Government in the French docks. In a few years' time at the most the Greek navy will be more than a match for the Turkish, and indeed the Greeks themselves believe that they can already hold their own. It is intelligible, under these circumstances, that great anxiety should be felt as to the possible action of the British fleet in the event of an attempt on the part of the Greeks to recover their islands, Crete, and the rest, which are still under Ottoman dominion. The attitude of Italy also causes a certain amount of uneasiness; indeed, it is stated by one who is well qualified to be well informed on this matter, that the part which Italy as a member of the Triple Alliance has undertaken to play in the event of war against France and Russia, includes the despatch of an expeditionary force to the *Ægean* ports.

According to the *Penang Independent* the recent battle between the Achinese and the Dutch proved indecisive. The Dutch evacuated the fort they had captured from the enemy with such heavy loss. The Achinese show a bold front and are shortly expected to make another attack.

The *Siam Mercantile Gazette* publishes the text of the postcard for writing which a Turkish subject named Belitski, then residing at Bangkok, was imprisoned for seven months. To Englishmen, accustomed to liberty of speech, there is something comic as well as deplorable about the action of a Government which cannot rest until it has imprisoned a man who considers its country uncivilised. Belitski, it seems, left Bangkok at the end of last month for Singapore, en route for Batavia, to lay his grievance before the Turkish Consul there. He will be fortunate if he obtains any redress. The text of the postcard, which was addressed to Mme. Charlotte Belitski, Tornovie Seimen, Ost Rumelien, Turkey, was as follows:—

Den 7 Dez., 1888,
Bangkok.

Hier ist alles wild und uncivilisirt. Die Weiber laufen hier halb nackt herum. Alle Laster blühen hier; ein Paradies für problematische Existenzen. Was für ein Contrast gegen das hochcivilisirte Volk der Chinesen und Japanesen von denen ich komme! Siam ist ein ech walachisches Königreich. Es ist das wildeste Land was ich auf meinen Reisen getroffen habe.

ROBERT BELITSKI.

The following is a translation:—

Bangkok, 7th December, 1888.

Here everything is wild and uncivilised; the women go about half naked. All vices

flourish here; a paradise for problematic existences. What a contrast to the highly civilized nations of China and Japan where I have lately been! Siam is a genuine Wallachian country. It is the wildest country I have ever seen in my travels.

ROBERT BELITSKI.

The post card was seized and Mr. Belitski was arrested on 16th December on a charge as he understood of libelling the Siamese Government. He was never brought to trial, and was liberated, as we have stated, on the 16th July on the representations of certain British subjects. Mr. Belitski states that he was well treated in prison, all the officials having been very kind to him.

Kuhlow's write as follows in reference to the projected Congou railway:—It has caused surprise in many quarters that 15,000,000 francs had already been subscribed before the Belgian Government placed before the Chamber the project whereby the State was to participate to the extent of 10,000,000 francs. It is now stated that a syndicate has been formed, consisting of some of the most important banking houses of Germany, England, Belgium, the United States, etc., in addition to other large capitalists as, for instance, Mr. Mackinnon and Baron Reuter, of London. The German houses belonging to the syndicate are S. Bleichröder and the Disconto-Gesellschaft, Berlin, and S. Oppenheim & Co., Cologne. The *Compagnie du Congo*, which was formed to carry out the preparatory work of the railway, is to immediately convene a general meeting on the ground of the treaty concluded with the State in 1887, in order to continue itself anew with a capital of 25,000,000 francs. The preparatory work is to be proceeded with with all speed, so that at the end of the year work may be begun on the spot. It is calculated that the railway will be finished in four years. It is intended to run two trains each way weekly. When it is considered that only eight years ago the district through which the railway will go had never been entered by Europeans, if must be acknowledged that there has never been a country which has been more quickly opened up and explored.

It is sad to see a paper of culture like the *American* making the following intemperate remarks:—Our government has negotiated a new treaty with Japan, which in the matter of abandoning the claim to exercise extraterritorial jurisdiction, is a distinct advance upon that negotiated ten years ago. We agree that our citizens shall be held answerable in Japanese courts for offences against the laws of the Mikado's government, and in return for this we are to receive much larger concessions as regards commercial access to the ports of the country. At the same time guarantees are given that the administration of the laws shall be in accordance with the spirit of civilisation. And we repeat also the acknowledgment of the entire right of Japan to control her own fiscal legislation in the matter of duties on imports, and Japan promises that we shall not be required to pay higher duties than are collected from European importers. This slightly changes the form of the agreement made by Mr. Evarts, and that for the better; but it does not change the substance of it. The infamous treaties, forbidding Japan to levy any but the most insignificant duties on imports, are to continue in force for us as for others, until England can be persuaded to treat Japan in accordance with the principles of Christian civilisation. It would have been better for us to have gone still farther, and accepted such a tariff as Japan chooses to enact, and trusted to the influence of the Mikado's government with the people to save us from loss. The power of the boycott is the last resource of a government situated as is that of Japan; and a boycott established by the wish of a ruler in the Mikado's position would be irresistible.

Miscellaneous Articles.

POLITICAL JOTTINGS IN CHINA.

An Imperial Decree recently published stated that Ung Tung Ho, the Grand Tutor of the Emperor, and President of the Board of Revenue, etc., etc., was granted two months' leave. It was also stated that his services and advice were of great value to the Emperor, and special privileges were accorded to facilitate his speedy return to Peking. Ung Tung Ho arrived at Shanghai early in the week and left again after a short interval for his family home near Soochow.

The memorial from the Board of Admiralty on the subject of railways was to be sent in to the Government on Tuesday, the 20th August, and it will be a month probably before any definite decision is arrived at and Decree issued in regard to the recommendations made.

Ung Tung Ho's attitude is still one of decided opposition to railways, but this arises in a great measure from the fact that he would have the responsibility of finding a large part of the necessary funds thrown upon him, and has a strong objection to being placed in that position. Seeing that the question is so rapidly coming to a head, he prefers to be out of the way at the critical moment, so that if railways are sanctioned and are afterwards condemned, he will be able to say that he always opposed them, and was absent from Peking when the final decision was made, and is therefore not responsible. His absence greatly weakens the anti-railways party, and shows that Ung Tung Ho sees clearly that the definite decision to proceed with railways will speedily be made.

The reports already published of the names of officials appointed to the railway department are all premature, no appointments having been made as yet.

There is a very general feeling in the North that the Viceroy Li's health is steadily weakening, and that his life is now a very uncertain one. If he should die, or retire from ill-health, it is very probable that he would be succeeded by the Marquis Tseng in the civil part of his office, a general being given the independent command of the army there. Tseng Kuo-ch'uan will be kept at Nanking as long as he lives and Chang Chih-tung, being a native of Chihli, cannot become Viceroy of that province.

The removal of Chang Chih-tung from Canton will make a great difference to matters in the South, and the progressive schemes which he had in hand will probably be dropped by his aged successor, which will make some difference to Hongkong.

The actual commencement of a railway at Hankow towards Peking will soon be a fact, and this will tend to give a stimulus to enterprise at Shanghai.

THE EMPEROR OF AUSTRIA.

FRANCIS JOSEPH I, Emperor of Austria, King of Hungary and Bohemia, celebrated his fifty-ninth birthday on the 18th inst., and a reign of over forty years. There is certainly no more respected sovereign on the Continent, nor one whose rule has been more difficult or more benign. His empire is made up of a number of States of different nationalities and different interests, whose jealousies have often threatened to break the bond that holds them together, which is only kept entire by the personal influence of the Emperor. The deadliest blow was dealt him when Germany tore away a part of his German subjects; for as long as they were a majority he could better control the jarring Magyars and Slavs who can only be persuaded to work together by the fear that in revolting from the rule of Austria they may fall into a worse state under Russia. The menace of Russian attack which has been held over Austro-Hungary ever since the dissolution of the former Triple Alliance drains the empire of its resources and subjects it to an almost intolerable strain; for by common consent—which may turn out to be as mistaken as common prophecy sometimes does,—it is on Austria that the first blow in the coming European war is to fall. The future of so heterogeneous an empire it is very difficult to forecast. It will hold together during the life of Francis Joseph, who is so thoroughly and justly beloved by all his peoples, and the fact that it was not apparently weakened by the doubtful present made it by the Berlin Congress, the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina, shews that there is still great vitality in it. Prince Bismarck would like, it would seem, to direct it still farther to the south-east; for there are still some Germans in Austria that he would like to take in, and he could reward Italy with the Trentino. With the war cloud hanging over him, and the presence of his great recent sorrow, the death of the Crown Prince, Francis Joseph can hardly have had so happy a birthday as he deserves. At least he has the satisfaction of knowing that he has the universal love of his subjects, and the universal admiration of the rest of Europe. The Austrian community in Shanghai celebrated the day with a banquet at which the acting Austrian Hungarian Consul-General, Mr. Bichler, presided, and in which the *convives* fully represented the feelings of their fellow-countrymen at home in their hearty devotion to the Emperor-King.

INDIAN AND CHINA TEA.

Is China Tea, like the Caucasian, "played out?" There are a good many people who will answer this question at once in the affirmative, and the answer will be given in a tone of melancholy in China, and of wild exultation in India and Ceylon. It is the unkindest cut of all that India, which learned from us

how to make tea, took our tea seeds and our workmen, and planted and cherished the one, and rapidly ejected the other, has not only supplanted us in the London market, but exhibits the most indecent joy at every lengthening of the distance by which she passes us in the competition. The *Times of India* is the worst offender; it has not even the common delicacy to leave us alone in our misery. Some months ago it wrote a contemptuous article full of facts and exaggerations; the facts we could not, alas! dispute: the exaggerations we did dare to point out. But has this done any good to this Indian Jeshurun? Not a bit: the *Times* is more exultant than ever. It has had the grace not to send us the number in which the cause and we are so heartlessly mocked, and we are indebted to the *Daily Press* for the following extract. Our Southern contemporary calls it "good-natured chaff"; is it then good-natured chaff to exult over a man who is slowly dying of starvation because his business has been taken away from him by a younger rival whom he trained? Is not this the case of the China tea trade to England? This is what the *Times of India* says:—"Oddly enough no attempt is made even in this case to deny the charges we made. They were 'too ridiculous.' No doubt they were; but as China's 200,000,000 lbs. of export tea have dwindled down to about 90,000,000 lbs, and the Chinese papers do not estimate an export for this year of more than 45,000,000 lbs. against India's 102,000,000 lbs. and Ceylon's 42,000,000, the ridiculous does not appear to be in this case particularly funny. The look-out for China, as the *Herald* frankly admits, 'grows worse and worse;' but as the catastrophe has been mainly brought about by China herself—that is, by her manufacturers and shippers—we do not see that they have much claim to our sympathy. The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they are grinding China tea exceeding small."

Is not this adding insult to injury? The *Times* owns that we were right in characterising its "charges" as too ridiculous to need denial; its statistics we could not and did not attempt to impugn, nor have we ever thought they were funny; the struggles of a dying trade are only "funny" to such hard-hearted people as the writer in the *Times of India*. "The catastrophe has been mainly brought about by China herself;" that is, she ought to have locked up Mr. Robert Fortune when he was starting from China with his tea seeds and his tea makers; but it is hardly grateful of the country that has so profited by China's generosity to twit her with it now. "The mills of the gods grind slowly, but they are grinding China tea exceeding small;" these mills may yet turn their attention to those who exult so indecently over a conquered competitor.

For, we are glad to be able to tell our readers, there is still some hope for

China tea. Mr. William Cochran, of Overdale, Dunblane, Perthshire, has come to the rescue: he has studied the question with all the *perfidium ingenium Scotorum*, and he has communicated the results of his study to the *Stirling Observer*. He is a man of equal mind; he is not an enthusiast for China; in fact he begins by saying that the efforts of our Indian and Ceylon producers "are thwarted, and their well-deserved remuneration is minimised and stunted through the depressing operation of the annual influx of inferior Chinese consignments." The reasoning to us seems to lack clearness; it is no doubt due to the denseness of our English brains that we cannot see how the inferiority of the China tea "sometimes renders the profession of a tea-planter in India a hard struggle for bare existence." But Mr. Cochran is convinced, and the *Stirling Observer* goes with him, that the improvement of China tea will make the poor Indian planter prosperous, and he has found and draws attention to two notable facts. The first is that Li Hung-chang has built a railway to carry his coal from the Kai-ping mines to Tientsin, which shews that "the wall of isolation, which has so long separated China from western civilisation, has at length been breached, that the former prejudice against all sorts of machinery is being overcome, and that an opening has been made for the mechanical arts of Europe, the width and importance of which it is impossible to measure or estimate." This is not quite so new as it might be, but at least we hope it is true; the second we know to be true; here it is:—

"It may not be generally known to the public, although tea traders have long been aware, that one of the most useful foreign officers in the Chinese service is Sir Robert Hart, K.C.M.G., Inspector-General of Customs."

"It may not be generally known to the public!" Sir Robert, Mr. Norman, and the *Pall Mall Gazette* may well ask what is fame? Even Mr. Cochran, we fear, who knows all about the Woon-sung Railway, and how it is now lying on the beach of the island of Formosa, would hardly have heard of Sir Robert Hart, but that the Inspector-General sent a copy of the "volume wholly devoted to tea," which was issued last year, to Mr. Stewart Cranston, tea merchant, Glasgow, who kindly sent it to Mr. Cochran for perusal. The perusal has been fruitful, and these are the conclusions at which the peruser arrived; we cannot improve upon his own words:—(1) That the long neglected cry of the patient British tea-drinker has at length reached head-quarters, and that his grumblings have created genuine alarm. (2) That the Chinese, in terror for the loss of such an important export trade, will now do something to revive confidence and stimulate consumption. (3) That the successful commencement of a railway system will already have so familiarised their minds with the superiority of steam power as to render the intro-

duction of tea-machinery, like that used in India, less obnoxious than formerly. (4) That the suggestions to open a tea school and model plantation, if carried out, must overturn the present crude methods in vogue; and (5) That the production of a better article will command a better price, in which Indian and Ceylon tea cannot fail to participate. Further conclusions might legitimately be drawn, but these five will I think, be accepted with little hesitation by all your readers who have studied the subject."

We leave the *Times of India* to argue with Mr. Cochran as to the benefit Indian and Ceylon tea would experience from a great improvement in the China product, and pass on to the practical suggestion which concludes his letter. The "shrivelled policy" which prevents foreigners from starting manufactures in the interior of China is to give way before the spread of railways, "provided our Foreign Office, our Ambassador and Consuls, do their duty." The spread of manufactures and machinery will "create a strong demand for native muscle," and Chinese will cease "to flood our colonies with cheap but undesirable labour to the exclusion of the European and American artisan." We might stop to ask Mr. Cochran whether the spread of manufactures in China will not tend to take away some work from the European and American artisan, but we must go on; for now we come to the true philosopher's stone, whose brilliance needs no setting from us, and which is so grand, and yet simple that we wonder it was never thought of before:—

"Chinamen evidently require some lessons in tea-making which no mere temporary commission could teach. What better plan could be adopted than for a Scottish syndicate to club a sufficiency of capital together, obtain possession of a few hundred acres, say in the Pakling, or any other good black tea district, send out a supply of modern machinery, a staff of experienced tea planters, and begin?"

We can fancy Sir Robert Hart, K.C.M.G., recommending this plan to the Tsungli Yamén, and Sir John Walsham doing his duty in backing it up.

BOILER INSPECTION IN SHANGHAI.

THE explosion on Saturday, by which it is now believed that about twenty lives were lost, was a very striking one and has naturally drawn attention to the whole question of the inspection of steam boilers both on land and in the waters of the Settlements. These accidents have been so rare, particularly with Chinese-owned craft, that the question though it has come up once or twice has been allowed to drop. The three previous explosions that we recall as having occurred on the river, those of the *Union Star*, the *General Ward*, and the *Spunkie* were all in

foreign-owned steamers that were being run by foreign engineers, and though *a priori* we should imagine that there was much more danger with Chinese-built craft run by Chinese engineers, in practice it has not proved so; which is of course due to the native engineers as they call themselves, and firemen as they mostly are, having been trained to caution under foreign engineers. The *Chi-chuan*, which disappeared on her trial trip, was we are happy to think an exceptional case. She was a large launch built at a ridiculously low price; for we are informed that of the Tls. 2,300 which she was to cost the Hangchow official who ordered her, only Tls. 1,500 was to reach the unfortunate builder, the remaining Tls. 800 sticking in the pockets of the go-betweens, as is the rule in China. For that sum, Tls. 1,500, it was impossible for the most economical builder to construct a launch of the size of the *Chi-chuan* with reliable machinery, and he was obliged to put in a condemned boiler; a boiler which had been submitted to the head foreign engineer of the Old Dock, and had been most unfavourably reported on by him. Add to this condemned boiler a worn-out and inefficient pressure gauge, and what happened was inevitable as soon as the boat was pressed.

As it happened in this particular case no foreign person or property was injured by the explosion, and it might be argued that it should be left therefore to the Chinese authorities to deal with. But the next one may occur when the launch is alongside one of the pontoons or a foreign vessel, and very serious damage may be done. There are, too, now a large number of steam boilers on land about the Settlements in use, and these, like the boilers of the launches that ply on the river and in the creeks are subject to no official inspection whatever. The Municipal Council, we believe, hold that the Land Regulations and By-Laws give them no power to interfere with boilers on land, unless they are complained of as an actual nuisance, but we do not believe that this objection is insuperable. Boiler users do not want their boilers to explode, and there are few of them that would not be glad to have their boilers inspected periodically by a competent engineer whose capabilities were certified by his receiving the Municipal appointment, nor would they probably refuse to pay a moderate fee for the service. If they did refuse, pressure could be brought on them through their Consul and through the agent of the insurance company in which their premises were covered, nor would it be difficult to prove that an uninspected boiler was a distinct nuisance to its neighbours. It must not be overlooked, however, that an official inspection is not a guarantee against accident, and it sometimes does harm by lulling the owner of the boiler into a false state of security; that government inspection is not infallible was shewn by the explosion of the *Yotsai* near

Hongkong on her trial trip in 1884, with the government inspector on board, when six Europeans and thirteen Chinese were killed and the vessel destroyed. The success of the Steam Users' Associations which are found in the large manufacturing towns in England shews, on the other hand, the advantage of periodical inspections; and the Council would do well to take the matter up, and find out, at any rate, the feeling of the owners of boilers in the Settlements on the subject, with a view to the establishment of a regular inspection.

As regards steam launches on the river the only people who could undertake a regular inspection of the boilers are the Foreign Customs, and it would be necessary to make the rules—in the face of the statistics of accidents to date—applicable to foreign as well as Chinese-owned craft, more so as the foreign-owned craft are nearly all run by Chinamen. To make this inspection of any real use, it would have to include a certification of the men employed as engineers; an extra work which the Commissioner of Customs may not wish to have put on his shoulders, but which should be undertaken. The fact that there has so far been only one explosion on a Chinese-owned launch must not be made too much of. The existing launches are getting old, and there are more builders, and men with little experience or knowledge, competing for custom; there remains the fact that if the *Chi-chuan* had had to pass an inspection, or her engineer to obtain a certificate, before she went on her trial trip, some eighteen or twenty lives would have been saved. Inspection and examination will not prevent, but they lessen the chances of accident, and the Senior Consul, on behalf of the foreigners here, might well communicate with the Taotai on the subject, and between them a practicable scheme could be readily evolved to lessen the dangers that now exist both ashore and afloat.

LOVE IN CHINA.

THE friends, may even the admirers, of the Chinaman would not grow over indignant at hearing him described as unlovely. There's no denying it: he is unlovely. The neighbouring Japanese have inspired successive visitors with enthusiasm, from Commodore Perry down to the latest explorer, Lord Eustace Cecil. In Japanese inns a smiling hostess and winsome maid-servants make the traveller welcome; in those of China you are met, if you are met at all, by some squalid boor, whose wife hastens as fast as her goat's-feet will allow her to carry her chalked and bedaubed face out of reach of barbarian admiration. Reputable woman-kind in China is secluded, if not as sedulously as in Mahomedan countries, still sufficiently so to ensure no contact with the male westerner, or indeed with any countryman outside her family. Consequently such limited social inter-

course as exists between foreigners and Chinese lacks the refining element which the presence of ladies among us necessarily gives to western society. And so the impression brought away by almost every foreign guest in China is, that despite his suaveness, urbanity and (the pigtail always excepted) generally becoming costume, his Chinese host is a man of distinctly objectionable habits, who overrears himself in a very unpleasant manner and who, in short, shows himself altogether destitute of any sort of spirituality. Ask such a guest if he could imagine his host 'in love', and he would burst out into irreverent laughter. As well, he would say, imagine a frog or a porpoise. This, of course would be superficial and unfair, but if the question is put squarely to a sinologue, is a Chinaman capable of a *grande passion*? he would find a difficulty in answering it. *A priori*, he would say, he is not, because he lacks the necessary opportunity, and has lacked it, apparently, ever since Confucius bowdlerised the Odes. A respectable young Chinaman usually sees his wife for the first time after he has wedded her, and the first care of a Chinese father who has any sense of duty to himself and his offspring is to get his children safely married. If we abandon the *a priori* method and try to collect facts, we are checked by this want of familiar intercourse. If we go to books, we are met by a douche of chaste platitudes from the Book of Etiquette, to the effect that when a man gives a thing to a woman "care must be taken that their hands do not meet," and so forth, conceived throughout in the spirit, which, they say, induced New England matrons to clothe their piano legs in pantaloons. Chinese novels do not help us much. Each of them contains a heroine it is true, but if not quite too improper she is so pedantically prudish as to be not only insufferable, but, (since human nature is human nature even in China) altogether incredible. The only novel so far exploited by foreigners which depicts the growth of an honourable and genuine affection between a youth and maid is the wonderful *Hung Lou Meng*. But it is disappointing to find that the late Mr. Mayers could not believe it true to life. Referring to the unhappy loves of Pao-yü and Tai-yü he wrote, "this portion of the plot may be looked on as a license assumed by the author for the purpose of giving play to such a development of conflicting passions as could not exist compatibly with the rigorous seclusion to which Chinese youths and maidens are ordinarily condemned. That the writer should have possessed the imagination to conceive and the power to depict an every day and unrestricted intercourse between young men and young women of marriageable age and circumstances is itself a proof of the superiority of his genius to that of the rest of his countrymen; but the incidents themselves may be as unreal, notwithstanding their truth to

nature, as the descriptions of the lavish magnificence with which the scene of his story is inlaid."

In this, Mayers was for once perhaps a trifle hypercritical. The Chinese table of prohibited degrees is even more unreasonable than our own, since though it forbids the marriage of first cousins on the father's side it permits it on the mother's. There is no reason why a Chinese youth should not become enamoured of his mother's sister's or mother's brother's daughter; in fact there seems every reason why he should, since she is the only girl of his own station in life whom he will be allowed to meet and speak with on familiar terms, and though the intercourse between them is doubtless carefully guarded, still the fact remains that marriages of affection between first cousins (not of the same surname) are far from uncommon in China. Outside this relationship it is as impossible for a young Chinaman to choose for himself a wife from his own class as it was for the aristocracy of old Athens. But just as the Athenian who longed for a warmer affection and a closer companionship than an aristocratic maiden of his parents' choice was likely to afford him, sought and found it among the *Hetairai* whose society was not denied him, so it is in modern China. Many a wife is drawn from among surroundings not of the purest, and if we may judge by the stories of the native press, many a firm and honest affection formed. It is not lack of fastidiousness but the natural reaction from the unnatural constraint of custom. The woman may be as far below Aspasia as the man below Pericles, but that such attachments can and do rise to the dignity of passion and tragedy there is ample evidence to prove. Again and again in the *Hu-pao* or *Kuang-pao* is the suicide recorded of two lovers whom circumstances will not permit to become mated. The *Hwa-pao* some little time since depicted the death of two such couples. They had met in the unfortunate conditions under which alone they could have met, and had learnt to love one another honestly and well. But the youths were too poor to redeem their would-be wives, and so rather than endure separation the lovers took poison together.

In the face of such evidence it would be idle to deny that a Chinaman is capable of falling in love in a downright fashion not unworthy the hero of a western novel; but at the same time it is permissible to doubt whether he often does so. He is too cold-blooded and phlegmatic, and much too inclined to respect 'old custom' and the judgment of his seniors to break out often in this way.

PROGRESS IN PERSIA.

IN his address at the recent meeting of the members of the New Oriental Bank Corporation, the Chairman, Mr. W. W. Cargill, mentioned the successful opening of a branch of the corporation in

Persia, and added that the directors of the bank regarded with pleasure the announcement of the intended establishment of an Imperial State Bank at Teheran. Each visit of the Shah to Europe has been attended with the grant of what is announced as a most valuable concession to British capitalists headed by Baron Reuter. On his former visit sixteen years ago the concession was for a railway which was to regenerate Persia, but no railway has ever been built. The concession this year is for an Imperial State Bank, which is equally to regenerate that decaying country.

A French philosopher has remarked that when we look back over our wasted years we determine to be quite different in future, but we go on being just the same. The granting of this new concession to Baron Reuter no doubt shews that the Shah intends to reform; whether this new bank will follow the same course as the railways remains to be seen. Mr. Demetrius Boulger, who wrote a history of China without ever having been there, in three volumes with portraits and maps of which Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son are now offering copies 'new as published' at something over half price, and who is now editor of the *Asiatic Quarterly Review*, has contributed to the July issue of that magazine a paper to shew that there is "reasonable ground for supposing that any concessions granted at the present time will bear valuable fruit for their possessors, and that the Shah and his ministers are at length persuaded that their own personal interests and the very existence of the State demand that no effort should be omitted to develop the great natural resources of Persia, and to improve the lamentably deficient means of communication possessed by that country." As we gave the other day the pessimist view taken of Persia by the *Spectator*, it is only fair that we should also show what reasons there are for thinking that there is still a probability of reform before Persia disappears in the jaws of England and Russia. We are perfectly ready to concede that neither country wants to eat up Persia, but we fear that manifest destiny points unalterably in their direction.

Mr. Boulger insists that the new concession to Baron Reuter has the advantage over the former one in that "it is given for a definite purpose, subject to certain set provisos and conditions, whereas its predecessor was indefinite." If it were merely for a bank, the concession would no doubt be definite enough, but we find that it includes the exclusive privilege for sixty years of working all the mines in Persia—rather a 'large order'—except those of gold, silver and precious stones, which the State, *i.e.*, the Shah, reserves for itself. No one knows for certain whether there are any mines in Persia, though it is of course believed to be very rich in minerals. The following sentence is almost too ingenuous: "The

Persian Government has shewn a wise as well as shrewd discretion in retaining within its own hands the control of the more valuable metals which have yet to be discovered, but which there is every probability, exist within the Shah's dominion." That is to say, Baron Reuter's new bank is to do all the prospecting for minerals, but if it does come across a mine of "valuable metals," the Shah will calmly step in and say, 'Oh! excuse me, that belongs to me.' No wonder Mr. Boulger adds that "the mining concession promises, therefore, to be most beneficial to Persia." Even as to the mines that do not contain valuable metals, there are many considerable limitations imposed, for the concession does not include—and this shews that the Shah is not such a barbarian after all—those that have been ceded to other parties, and though the concession is for sixty years, "all mines which the bank has not commenced working within ten years of its formation shall be deemed to have been abandoned by it." The Shah seems to have made a pretty good bargain after all; the bank has to prospect the whole country in ten years, and hand over to him all the gold, silver, or jewel mines that it finds; while Russia, from whom he knows that he has much more to fear, has been given the prior right to construct and administer the railways of Persia, and Russia will not allow this concession to become a dead letter, as Baron Reuter did.

For we soon find that Mr. Boulger is really under no illusions as to the future of Persia. He recommends strongly that no British capital should be spent in the north of the country; "English money will scarcely be forthcoming for enterprises that seem destined to become, in very few years, the possessions of the Czar"—an absurd sentiment, for Russia would certainly never confiscate such enterprises, and there is plenty of English money invested with perfect security now in the possessions of the Czar. We only quote as shewing Mr. Boulger's real opinions as to the future of the country. Baron Reuter is to spend all his money in the south, where it will be "always subject to our political control, and secure against hostile interference." There is no delicacy here about dissecting a man before he is dead. The opening of the river Karun which the Shah has lately granted us as an offset to his concession to Russia in the north, is paving the way for the development of southern Persia by English capital, but it is valueless without the construction of a canal at Ahwaz to turn the rapids, post-roads, and telegraphs, and these the Shah is virtually ordered to undertake at once. This work will no doubt be thrown on the new bank, which will take care to secure a *quid pro quo*, and will see that it confines its attention to "projects in that part of Persia which could in an emergency be brought within the range of our

protecting influence." Of course the Shah sees through these euphemisms, but he no doubt considers that the present state of things will last his time, and that the establishment of a State bank at Teheran means money somehow. But is not an article of this kind calculated to make the Chinese think that they are quite right in refusing foreigners concessions for railways, etc., when they see what the granting of such concessions is expected to involve in Persia? It is very well to say that China is not Persia, or Turkey, or Egypt, but Peking may perhaps think that it is wise to be on the safe side, and keep foreign *concessionaires* out as much as possible.

Reviews.

THE FRENCH-MAIL PAPERS.

The newspapers brought us yesterday morning by the *Iraonaddy* are full of the Royal Grant discussion. The Liberal and Conservative leaders both promised some time since that before another royal grant was asked for, there should be a committee of enquiry into the subject; but Parliament has always as much pressing work on hand as it can attend to, and so from session to session this promised committee has been put off. The engagement of the Prince of Wales's eldest daughter brought the question into the sphere of practical politics, and the Government consented to appoint a committee. The fight of the week took the form of an opposition to the constitution of the Committee, which the Radicals thought was not radical enough; but the Government, supported most ably by Mr. Gladstone who retains all his old Conservatism when questions of this kind are under discussion, carried their point. Mr. Gladstone contended "that upon the whole it was not possible for the Government to have made a more fair and equitable distribution," and the following list of the Committee justifies his contention:—Sir W. Barttelot, Mr. Burt, Dr. Cameron, Sir A. Campbell, Mr. Chamberlain, Sir J. Curry, Mr. Elton, Mr. Gladstone, Sir J. Gorst, Mr. Goschen, the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. S. Hoare, Mr. Illingworth, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. J. Morley, Sir S. Northcote, Mr. Parnell, Mr. Sexton, Sir H. Vivian, Mr. Wharton, Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Whitley and Mr. W. H. Smith. The Parliamentary system has fallen so low in some countries, and the Irish question has caused such violent dissensions in the House of Commons, that people who jump at conclusions are apt to assert that even in England it is on its final trial; but as long as the leaders of all parties can be brought together in harmony as they still can in England whenever any question important to the whole nation which is not strictly a party question is under discussion, there is no reason to fear that the knell of parliamentarism is sounded. That the question as to farther grants to the Prince of Wales and his family is not strictly a party one, although the opposition to it has come chiefly from the Radicals, is shewn by the following extract from the *World*, which has of late years become an eminently Tory organ:—

Whatever may be the case with regard to the future, there can be no doubt as to the strong feeling which prevails in the present—that the members of the Royal Family, outside certain strictly and narrowly defined limits, should be self-supporting. That part of the British nation in which the power of the purse resides understands payment for services, and is not indisposed even to liberal

payment for real services, or for services which it understands to be such. But it does not understand payment for the maintenance of the merely dignified and ornamental part of our Constitution—it does not understand payment for being a graceful adjunct, an influence, and an atmosphere. There must be some definite result to show on which a value in money can be put. This may be, in the length to which it is pushed, an impatient and ignorant feeling; though, if it did not exist at all, it might be hard to check demands on the public purse on considerations hardly admitting of exact pecuniary appreciation. A sordid parsimony is not at the bottom of this sentiment. As compared with some of his foreign neighbours, notably the French, the British workman is not remarkable for the virtue of thrift. He likes to spend money when he has it, not knowing how soon the time may come when he will not have it, and therefore will not be able to spend it. The free hand which he uses himself he approves in others. It may be doubted whether a lavish and even imprudent splendour is not more agreeable to him than a careful economy. At any rate, if the *bourgeois* virtues of living far within one's resources are practised by great persons, they should, in his view, be accompanied by the intention and habit of using what is not spent on the pageantries of State for the purpose of making provision for members of the family. We do not say that this feeling, in the extent to which it is sometimes pushed, is altogether a sound one, but it is a very general one; and a general feeling cannot be left out of account by Sovereigns and Princes, Ministers and Parliaments.

The income of the Prince of Wales was said to be over £100,000 a year; we know that now it has been raised by £36,000, and there is undoubtedly a very strong feeling that he ought to be able to bring up his family on that, and that if he is put to extra expenses by the duties which the Queen delegates to him, these should be defrayed by the Queen. The *Spectator's* idea on the subject of these royal grants is a little fanciful, because there is no reason to believe that there is any bitterness between the reigning house and the people; for whenever any member of it undertakes any public function, the reception accorded by the people is as enthusiastic as ever. Even though there is discontent expressed often in journals of all shades of opinion as to the Queen's love of retirement, which is after all not unreasonable in a woman of 70, who is overwhelmed with work, she is most cordially greeted whenever she does appear in public. The *Spectator* says:—

We rather incline to the belief that the hatred to Royal grants upon which Mr. Labouchere and his associates trade, is not a Republican feeling at all, but is part of that hatred of pensions of all kinds which once dominated the Americans, and now embarrasses every department of the English public service. The pensions to the Royal family, unlike any other pensions, are granted publicly, after debate, and to the householders they seem large. Consequently, the English dislike to pay money without receiving a visible return, concentrates itself upon them, and they insist upon Radical Members fighting, not Royalty, but the pension system. At all events, whatever its cause, the feeling exists, and is used to keep up a bitterness between the reigning House and the people which conduces to no one's advantage, and makes foreigners fancy that England is always on the point of dispensing with the throne. It is well that an irrational bitterness of that sort should be soothed away, and the only way to do it is to make some businesslike arrangement which both parties and the Royal family can accept as a working compromise, at least for this generation.

On such a question as this, it is always worth while to read the views of that soberest of British journals, the *Economist*, and that brings out a point which was no doubt in the minds of those who insisted on the whole question of royal grants being taken up by a Committee, instead of the allowances being made piecemeal as heretofore. It says:—

At what point the descendants of George the Third should cease to be Princes and

Princesses must be left to the Queen and her advisers, but there is no reason why a person more than ten removes from the succession, unless, indeed, himself a King's son, should be considered or treated as a royal personage. He would only share the fate of other younger sons, and in many departments of life his illustrious pedigree, though unaccompanied by rank, would rather assist than burden him. It must come to that at last, for there may be in 1950 two hundred descendants of George the Third, forming a separate clan, which would be a peerage of itself with none of its position or obligations, and the rule had better be adopted whenever the question of allowances is finally revised. At all events, it is quite certain that unless it is adopted, any conceivable Royal Fund must one day be insolvent. Even the British Treasury cannot stand up against demands increasing in the ratio at which a healthy family frequently develops itself. We are all deceived by the rapid extinction of George the Third's children, but that was an accidental result of very peculiar circumstances one of which was the great tolerance of society for avowed concubinage. That has passed away, and the new generation of Royalties may be as numerous as the gentlemen counted in the Norfolk succession, who are declared by a legend, which is quite possibly true, to exceed two thousand.

The cynic might point out that the nation is suffering from the higher morality introduced into the Court and impressed on their children by the Queen and Prince Albert.

The *Spectator's* article on the Shah's Reception is a healthy protest against the laudation that has been lavished on the King of Persia, as if he were an ideal sovereign, eager and anxious to introduce western civilisation into his country, and govern it on western methods. It is well to read a little of the truth:—

The Shah is not a great monarch or a particularly estimable one. No Englishman can quite rid himself of the traditional idea of grandeur which attaches to the word Persia; but the King of that historic Empire now rules over a land vast indeed, and with ill-defined boundaries, but reduced by misgovernment and misfortune almost to ruin. It is doubtful if the population of Persia, which ought to be thirty millions, now exceeds that of Belgium; and year by year, everything in the country, except the Palace, decays. Persia is perishing for want of Persians, and her total inability to protect her independence if the Czar ever ordered an occupation, constitutes one of the most dangerous features in the great Asiatic problem. As for the Shah, he is probably much abler in his own way than those who call him a barbarian; but he is not a Persian at all except by residence, but the head of a Tartar clan which has been hardly less destructive to Persia than the Ottomans have been to the Eastern Empire. He has put down many insurrections successfully, and maintained his own autocracy with rare skill; but he is as relentless in punishment as the Ameer of Afghanistan, and condones in his satraps, who are drawn exclusively from his House, a license of cruelty which is reaffirmed and condemned by the most friendly travellers. As to his "reforms," they do not exist, and never will. . . . The key to the disorder of an Asiatic Kingdom like Persia, the ultimate source of all oppression, of all rural decay, of all the failure to develop commerce, is taxation, the resolve of the Court and the satraps that they will have money in quantities, and their ignorance how to get it without destroying the very springs of wealth by oppression, or, what is financially worse in its effect, by capricious alterations of policy.

Those who know anything of the East must be sickened by the ignorance or hypocrisy which prompts the glowing descriptions of the boy "favourite," whom the Shah takes with him everywhere. In view of the break-up of the Kingdom of Persia which must come apparently, it is no doubt well that we should have all the influence in the country which conciliation of the Shah will give us, but, as the *Spectator* says, "what is wanted is an agreement with Russia regardless of Persian independence." It suggests as an alternative,

but has no belief in the suggestion, "a strong and persistent policy having for its object a restoration of Persian strength." If the Shah thinks of the future at all, he cannot help sometimes hearing in the shouts of the mob (of all classes) at St. Petersburg and London the ominous cry, "Ave, Cæsar Imperator, morituum te salutamus!"

In the Delagoa Bay Railway difficulty the first outburst of the wrath against Portugal had been succeeded by calmer thoughts, and even the *Economist* suggests that there may be two sides to the story. It points out too that it is British capitalists who would in the end lose most if our government were to forcibly interfere in the dispute, for no self-respecting nation would give a concession to an English company, if it had reason to think that at the first dispute with the company, a British man-of-war would intervene to support the company's side. The *Saturday Review* is of course disgusted that the dispute was to be referred to arbitration; it has never got over its disgust at the *Alabama* award, nor ever ceased to regret that we did not go to war rather than to Switzerland on the question. The best article in the *Saturday* is one headed "Useless Knowledge," on a remarkable little sixpenny book which no doubt some of our readers have seen at Kelly and Walsh's, *Everybody's Pocket Encyclopedia*, as to which it says:—

It would seem that this work must have been compiled like Mr. Charles Reade's famous scrap-books by the author cutting out of newspapers and books of reference anything that happened to strike him. It must be supposed that he stopped either because he died or thought he was going to, or because he had collected as much as could possibly be printed for sixpence. But there is still a simplicity about so much higgledy-piggledy information that is rather pleasing. There is certainly a sort of index; but it occupies only four pages and contains very few words that any one would think of looking for. The only real use for the volume is to carry it in the pocket and consult it privily when one wants to make an observation betraying out-of-the-way knowledge. This is sometimes useful when conversation flags, and only the experienced know that in such a case the remark does just as well whether it has been found in a book or invented on the spot.

To return to the Delagoa Bay question, it has been more than hinted that Germany is backing up Portugal in its opposition to the extension of British rule in Africa, and that perhaps accounts for the following note in the *St. James's*:—

The Delagoa Bay affair, as Lord Salisbury intimated in the House of Lords on Tuesday, is clearly much too doubtful an affair for us to be in a hurry to wield the stick (as in Mr. Punch's picture this week) over the back of the Portuguese because of it. In a general way a great Power reserves to itself the right to interfere when its subjects are being wronged by foreign Governments, even when it is a pure matter of business and there are no politics to complicate matters. But then we have to make quite certain that our countrymen have been wronged. Now in this Delagoa Bay Railway dispute the fact that the company is quite right and the Portuguese Government quite wrong, in form as well as in substance, is by no means certain; and Lord Salisbury rightly declines to commit himself to action till the company have proved their contention that the forfeiture of the railway was not only harsh and arbitrary but contrary to the terms of the concession and the contracts made under it.

The *Pall Mall* has a really amusing page of pictures of the Shah and a thoroughly pro-Russian leading article on him. The article on the "In-and-out Running of Mr. Lowther" would be more worth reading if Mr. Lowther were a person of more consideration; but the article on Gambetta and Millet's *Angelus* is a very interesting one, with a deep lesson in it for modern British art. The sketches at Henley have a good deal of life in them, and a sufficiently detailed description is given of the intended

execution by electricity at Auburn, New York. There is nothing better however in all the papers than the quotations in *Punch's* "Essence of Parliament" from Shakespeare's Sonnets, by which it is proved that they were prophetically dedicated to the Leader of the House of Commons, Old Morality.

NOTICES OF BOOKS, &c.

Guide to Kuan Hua, a Translation of the "Kuan Hua Chih Nan," with an Essay on Tone and Accent in Pekingese and a Glossary of Phrases. By L. C. Hopkins, H.M. Consular Service, China. Shanghai, Kelly & Walsh, Ltd., 1889.

The original work Kwan Hua Chih Nan, Koan-hoa Tchê-nân, or Kuan Hua Chih Nan, the first being our own, the second the Jesuitical, and the last the Wadean system of transliteration, was produced under the auspices of the Japanese Legation at Peking, for the benefit of the Japanese studying the Mandarin dialect in that Capital. A translation of it, with the text in Chinese, a scientific transliteration of the sounds, including the tones marked in the excellent method employed by Dr. Carstairs Douglas in his Dictionary of the Amoy Dialect, and with notes explaining all difficult phrases, was issued in 1887 from the Catholic Mission Press at Siewwei, under the title of "Boussole du Langage Mandarin," by the Jesuit Father H. Boucher. It is, however, a lamentable fact that the French language is almost, if not quite, a sealed book to the majority of people of Anglo-Saxon race who devote themselves to the study of Chinese. Hence there is a *raison d'être* for Mr. Hopkins's book, and it will do good service in supplementing the "Ten Dialogues" and "Hundred Lessons" of the good old *Tzu Erh Chi*.

The book of 221 pages, which is printed in clear and easily-readable type, and appears to be quite free of typographical mistakes, is composed as follows. Part I. is made up of detached phrases, or conversational forms, highly idiomatic and difficult to analyse. Part II. consists of dialogues and stories relating to almost every imaginable subject, business transactions, travelling, robbers, gambling, opium, law-suits, and charades, and contains several good stories of "ways that are dark and of tricks that are vain," and of poetical justice overtaking the wicked. Part III. is composed of dialogues between master and servant, and is devoted to things domestic, eating, drinking, washing, brushing, folding. The Japanese colour is rather strong here, the master giving directions about his little charcoal-filled chafing-dish, pipe-tray, and spittoon, his "black cloth coat and striped grey linen trousers," his "crystal studs," and about the proper manner of folding his "Japanese clothes." In dialogue 10, after directing a little more cold water to be put into the bath (which must have been a *very* hot one to make a Japanese give such a direction) he says "Give me a scrubbing . . . Is there much dirt on me? . . . Well, rub me quite clean."

The fourth part is made up of dialogues between officials only, partly on imaginary Consular cases referred to Peking to be settled between a foreign minister and the Tsung-li Yamén, and partly on appointments, promotions, and transfers. The Japanese colour is visible here too, and we are introduced to natives of Nagasaki, Yokohama, and *Ta Pan Fu*, meaning Osaka, a little town of about half a million souls which our translators do not seem to have heard of under that name. Père Boucher is worse than Mr. Hopkins, for though both show that they know that *Ch'ang-k'i* is Chinese for Nagasaki, the *pavé* commits the additional outrage of calling Yokohama *Hong-pin*.

Mr. Hopkins has made a very correct translation of the book in a cheerful con-

versational style of English which is very suitable to the subjects and the way they are discussed. Numerous as they are, there is not one which is serious, elevating, or pathetic. It is almost entirely a book of small talk interspersed with many amusing stories. One does not learn how to address ladies from these dialogues. The fair sex is hardly mentioned at all, even incidentally. They do not come forward as talking with men in the super-virtuous Orient where "men and women must not touch hands in passing things to each other." Indeed many of the stories are too Bacchanalian, Rabelaisian, to be told to ladies. Father Boucher discreetly omitted in his translation "*quelques phrases que nos lecteurs préféreraient ne pas avoir sous les yeux*;" Mr. Hopkins spares us nothing, and his translation is consequently disfigured with some unnecessary indecencies. In his anxiety to reproduce the jovial rollicking tone of his original, he moreover sometimes descends to vulgarities of diction:—thus, p. 3, *p'êng-yu kiao-ts'ing yao-kin shi tsai ts'ing-i, puh tsai tung-si*, his translation "Friendship is essentially a matter of feeling, not one of £. s. d.," is inferior to that of Père Boucher, "*dans les rapports d'amitié, l'important est [dans] la bonne intention, et non les choses [offertes]*;" and on p. 104, his rendering of *ni kun ch'uh-k'ü pa*, by "go and be d—d to you," looks still worse when contrasted with "*sors vite d'ici!*" But these little blemishes, which are not numerous after all, can be removed in a later edition, and on the whole the translation is bright and readable, and gives much useful information on modern, and it is fair to suppose, ancient Chinese Characteristics; their sordid practicality; their general impecuniosity; their want of persevering ambition, and consequent tendency to suicide; their exaggerated formal politeness; their love of good feeding and jovial hospitality. Dialogue No. 11, p. 4, is a gem in its way; A. "Everybody must be truthful in what they say." B. "There is no doubt about that. Anything like lying and cheating, when people find it out, brings disgrace to a man." A. "Your view exactly coincides with my own opinion."

We now proceed from the general to the particular, and point out certain passages in the translation in which Mr. Hopkins is superior, and others in which he is inferior in correctness, to his precursor.

On p. 38 in Pt. II, we find in a dialogue on the suicide of a rogue, the phrase *koh jen pa koh jen tih ming yao liao* pretty correctly translated, "and now he has brought his own death on himself." Father Boucher is incorrect here; he says "*chacun envie, veut le sort, la vie, la fortune de son prochain*."

On page 44, in Part II, in the Dialogue on an arbitration in a case of Breach of Contract, Mr. Hopkins translates *hwan teh pao p'ei chuan le* by "they must also undertake to make good the interest accruing." We think Père Boucher's rendering the correct one, "*il lui fallait de plus une indemnité pour le profit [qu'il avait fait]*;" *chan*, or *chan li*, meaning in our opinion the profit on mercantile transactions, and not the interest accruing on a deposit in a bank or elsewhere.

On page 87, Part III, we find *muh-yü* (literally, "woodfish") translated "some Japanese fish sauce," and Mr. Hopkins mysteriously adds in a foot-note "this is the term for some fish the Japanese name of which the author told me, but I have unfortunately mislaid it." Father Boucher translates *muh-yü* by *champignons qui poussent sur le bois*, and adds that they are also called *muh-erh* "wood-ears." We think the French sinologue is right, having searched in vain in the Japanese Dictionary for the mislaid fish-sauce.

In the matter of dollars, Part III, Dialogue 12, on Exchange, we are not surprised to find Mr. Hopkins more *savant* than his predecessor; thus *mao-yih-tih yang-ts'ien*,

he correctly translates "*trade dollar*," *ying yang*, "Mexican dollar," and *yih yuan*, Japanese dollar; while Père Boucher gives us incorrectly "*piastre ordinaire du commerce (mexicaine)*," *piastre à l'aigle* (*États-unis*), for the two former, and *na yih yuan* he translates by "*celle-ci*," evidently taking it to refer to what he calls the U.S. Dollar.

We come now to the Glossary of phrases, including 2,200 of them, filling 56 pages of small type. This Glossary is the result of much painstaking labour, and will be very useful to the beginner, owing to the great care with which the tones actually heard are marked. On p. 198 we find *nei li* translated "in the Palace." This we think is an error, believing *nei-li* to mean simply "The Palace," with no idea of *in*. *Shih-pi*, meaning "perforce," is omitted, so is *t'ui-ti*, "an apprentice," and there must be other omissions, but probably not many. A more serious error in the Glossary is *ts'ao tzu*, "irregularly, unceremoniously," marked without the aspirate. This should have an aspirate, *ts'ao-ts'ü*. Dr. Williams, (and Père Boucher we might add), has the authority of the Chinese editors of the *Annales* of Confucius for giving the aspirate to *ts'ao* in this combination. "The superior man does not derogate from the principle of *jên* (benevolence) even when *ts'ao ts'ü* (flurried, hurried, etc.);" Perhaps if we turned the microscope on for a few weeks more, we might detect further errors. As yet this is the only serious one we have detected.

In the witty "Translator's Preface" which is the first thing that strikes the eye on opening this book, we are as good as promised that we shall have none of the pedantry of sinology, but on reading on our hopes fade on learning that the author has added a monograph on tone and accent in Pekingese. Our spirits revive on finding that this is only eleven pages long, and rather less depressing that the ordinary essays on this distressing subject. The object of this monograph, inserted as it is just before the glossary, is to justify a "new departure" taken by the translator in marking the tones in the Glossary. When two characters occur in combination, the tone of the first becomes modified by the tone of the second; thus a third tone becomes practically almost, if not quite, a second tone, by an illusion of the ear; and Mr. Hopkins has made the innovation of marking it so, in all cases. It is, we think, to be regretted, that he has gone so far as he has in this innovation. Where the sound undergoes a real change, as in the case of *yih*, "a, one," and *puh*, "not," it is good that it should be marked. But as regards those other illusory changes, we agree with Mr. Parker that the modification is "optional, unconscious and elastic; and a complete disregard of it in no way tends to make the speaker less comprehensible than he otherwise would be." In addition to the needlessness of the system, it has a distinct disadvantage, in that it renders it more difficult for the learner to acquire the normal tone of the syllable by itself, after having been marked with the accidental tone it holds in combination. In fine, it is no good denying that the genius of Chinese is monosyllabic, and that the characters must be learnt by the beginner as monosyllables. Rules must be learned in preference to exceptions; and we should think a German studying English, for instance, very badly advised if he were told to devote his attention to such little points as imitating the sounds of "n" for and or "o" es for oh yes in an Englishman's mouth, before learning the important facts that the *bund* is not called *de bent*, or one's hand, his *hent*.

Although we doubt the practical benefit of teaching the beginner how syllables lose their tones or become toneless altogether, a consummation which he is only too apt to bring about himself by unauthorised means, we do not deny that this highly scientific dissertation on tones possesses an

academic interest for philologists and will very likely provoke reprisals from the sinologues whose sense of hearing is aspersed. The general public believe that the acoustic failings of sinologues are not caused by excessive shortness of the organs of hearing, but by love of controversy and *cacoethes scribendi*. The flesh is willing, but the spirit is weak. In the meantime those who believe that the object of studying Chinese is that the west and east may know each other's ideas and intercommunicate them, regret that intellects are wasted in such discussions, and ask if it is not "taking a hatchet to kill a chicken?"

M. F. A. F.

The New Review: edited by Archibald Grove. London: Longmans, Green & Co., No. 1, June 1889.

The French *Revue de Deux Mondes* is the model of the numberless monthly reviews that now issue from the London presses. The first was the *Fortnightly*, which was intended to be published, like its prototype, every two weeks, but which has never yet carried out the intention. The last is Mr. Grove's *New Review*, which we draw attention to, because of its wonderful cheapness, which is not made possible by any lowering of quality. For sixpence we have 96 pages of good writing, the contributors to this first number being M. Naquet, M. Camille Pelletan, Henry James, Earl Compton, M.P., Lord Chas. Beresford, ex-M.P., Mrs. Lynn Linton, T. W. Russell, M.P. and Lady Randolph Churchill; and the fact that it is published by Longmans is a sufficient guarantee that the type and paper are all that could be wished. The only feeble article is "After the Play" by Henry James; the most interesting is the exposition of the case of General Boulanger by M. Naquet, Senator, who is believed to be the brains of the Boulangist movement. It is moderate, explanatory and hopeful, and we learn from it that Boulangism is something more than a Cave of Adullam. Its programme Mr. Naquet, an old Republican, sums up in these words:—

"No reaction; respect for progress already obtained; cessation of the policy of intolerance pursued for the last ten years; constitution of the Republic on the lines of a liberal democracy. These are some of the items in the programme of the national Republican party, and from which we hope the most fruitful results for our country."

Reviews in the old day took a line and stuck to it. As Southey wrote of the *Eldorado*: we quote from memory:—

"They all of them knew Mr. Jeffery's review,
Its back was buff, and its sides were blue,
It was through thick and thin its party true,

It served them for Law and for Gospel too!"

Nowadays the reviews give every side of a question, and allow the reader to pick out which he likes best, and so after M. Naquet's presentation of the case for General Boulanger, we have an impeachment of it by M. Camille Pelletan, his conclusion being that:—

Assuredly it would be a great danger for France, already in a difficult economical and financial position, and menaced by the European situation, to be thrown like a stake on the green table of history by an adventurer drunken with success.

Happily these dangers are imaginary. There may be moments of discontent or of unreasoning enthusiasm, but at the critical hour which shall decide her fate France will awake to the knowledge of her truer self.

TO THE DEAF.—A Person cured of Deafness and noises in the head of 23 years' standing by a simple remedy, will send a description of it FREE to any Person who applies to NICHOLSON, 21, Bedford Square, London, W.C., England.

Outports.

NEWCHWANG.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

We have had a spell of really hot weather, the opinions of travellers being that even Shanghai could not boast of a higher temperature. Fortunately there is generally some wind to soften the hot air, and although some people almost audibly perspire, they do not suffer from the gasping, suffocating feeling, which is the consequence of 90 degrees in some other ports. Sickness has been prevalent, and even choleraic symptoms were displayed, which however on closer diagnosis turned out to be a case of too much cucumber. Altogether we have a good bill of health, and from the interior we have news of splendid prospects for the coming crops. There has been hardly enough rain, but rather than have a repetition of last year's inundation, it will be better to risk being dried up. Although we must wait a few weeks before the harvest can be relied on, and meanwhile large shipments of cereals still continue, the price of produce is 20 per cent. cheaper than it was in the winter, before any shipments were possible, yet there have been no means of adding to the stocks. The only two vessels in port are:—Steamer *Chefoo*, loading for Swatow, and s.s. *Fuyew* for your port. By the bye, the last named steamer goes to Chefoo and Shanghai, thence to Chefoo, Chemulpo and perhaps other ports in Corea, returns to Chefoo and then comes here. This voyage, she added to her peregrinations by visiting Tientsin with some of the cargo saved ex steamer *Fungshun*. As the *Fuyew* is circulated in Shanghai for Chefoo and Newchwang—I forget whether the words "*via Corea*" are added—many letters are forwarded here a week or two after such correspondence as may have been despatched by direct steamer or *via Chefoo* only. Any letters or packages for Newchwang shipped in Shanghai per *Fuyew* should be left in Chefoo en route to Corea. It is simply stupid to take letters on to Corea and then bring them back to Chefoo and here. Gentle hints have been thrown out before regarding the carelessness often displayed by the officers or agents of steamers enant correspondence entrusted to their care, and I trust they will in the present case be generous enough to study the convenience of residents in these isolated regions, where one depends on the good nature very often of shipmasters for the true delivery of home letters, &c.

13th Aug.

TIENTSIN.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

There are few inventions which have met with a more favourable reception at their entrance into the practical world than the telephone, an instrument so simple in its construction and marvellous in its results by which the American Professor Bell, its illustrious inventor, has secured himself a place of honour in the history of progress. From the moment when it became practicable to transmit the spoken word by electricity the question arose "How far can we speak?" As the electric action developed by the telephone was too feeble, the experts naturally tried to strengthen it by means already known, that is, by means of the galvanic cell. Numerous experiments were made, but it is certain that telephony would never have reached so remarkable an extension if it had not been for Edison and Hughes, the inventors of the microphone where the undulations of the galvanic current are the *sine qua non* of the vocal transmission. To put in direct verbal communication not only the inhabitants of the same town, but the citizens of the same

country, nay, even the different nations—such a conception would have been treated as a folly ten years ago, but to-day it is not only a conception, but one realised in practice. Mr. van Rysselberghe, the young *savant*, has made several inventions which generally speaking can only interest the scientific electric world; but there are two great discoveries connected with his already famous name, namely "Téléphonie à Grande Distance et Téléphonie et Télégraphique Simultanés." It was in the year 1881 that Mr. van Rysselberghe wanted to connect the observatory in Brussels with the meteorological station in Ostend. The distance was 122 kilometres (76 miles). He utilised a wire carried on telegraph poles. The result was first, that the distance was too long; the voice arrived too feebly and it was only possible now and then to catch a word; second, when work was going on the telegraph wires, the effects of "induction" emanating from the telegraph wires were so great that they made telephoning impossible. It was a medley of Morse and Hughes signals which were heard with such intense noise that it became intolerable to hold the telephone to the ear.

Mr. van Rysselberghe's problem was therefore a double one: to make it possible to speak over a greater distance and to correspond by telephone when the telegraph lines were in full activity. Let us not enter too deeply into the ingenious methods adopted by the young *savant*; let it suffice to say that it is now possible to telephone over 700 li on ordinary telegraph wire, and over more than 1,000 miles on copper wire of the same dimensions; in fact it would be perfectly within possibility with suitable wire to telephone from China to Europe.

Mr. van Rysselberghe's second invention, Simultaneous Telephony and Telegraphy, makes it possible to utilise all existing telephone and telegraph wires for telephoning and telegraphing at the same time. By means of an "anti-inductive armature" the induction noises are silenced, and telephoning and telegraphing are carried on simultaneously on the same wire. Previously to this invention, telephone lines had to be fixed apart from telegraph lines. Fancy then the revolution in telegraphic and telephonic economy. In the autumn of 1887 Mr. Poulsen illustrated the system in Tientsin before a number of Chinese Taotais; and I now hear that the first installation in China for practical business has been made by the same gentleman on the Taku telegraph line, the Taku Tug and Lighter Co. telephoning to "Nine Forts" from their Tientsin office simultaneously with the telegraph work going on in its usual way between the Government Stations of Tientsin, Taku, etc.

Aug. 12th.

TIENTSIN AND PEKING.

(From the *Chinese Times*.)

The Taotai Yuan Pao-lin, formerly Director of Works at Port Arthur, died on the 16th of apoplexy. He was first visited by that malady at the time he was about signing the contract with the French Syndicate for the Port Arthur harbour works. Since then the late Taotai has been in retirement in a semi-lethargic state, and unable to recover the use of his limbs.

The low lying country between Ma-tou and Chang-kia-wan is deeply flooded over a wide expanse, both by rain and by breaches in the Peiho banks, so that the journey by land to Peking has become both difficult and dangerous unless a long circuit is made. The droves of ponies that are coming in from Mongolia have to swim the flood for 1 or 2 li, and the flood waters have such a strong current that ferry boats have been upset and many people drowned. The crops in the flooded districts are, of course, destroyed, and the unfortunate villagers are

inapitiable condition. The Customs couriers who carry the mails between this place and Peking make their journeys with surprising regularity and despatch, considering the ride has to be made on a much longer route than usual, also on one less familiar than the old track, and that from this settlement to Peking city the ground all the way is a pool of sticky slush. The couriers' work is so hard that the performance really exhibits heroic endurance.

That an insignificant stream like the Peiho should be allowed year after year to take charge of the country within 30 miles of the capital, and of the official residence of the greatest Satrap in the empire, speaks more plainly than words of the weak administration of the country.

The Marquis Tseng is better, and able to attend to business again.

Neither the Sixth nor the Seventh Princes are as yet in a satisfactory state of health. They have been visited and prescribed for by Dr. Mai, a qualified pupil of Dr. Irwin of Tientsin, who was sent up by H.E. the Viceroy. Dr. Mai is able to consult Dr. Irwin by letter, but the result must be far from satisfactory. It is the nearest approach, however, which a Prince of the Blood has yet made to submitting to foreign medical treatment; and may be accepted by the friends of progress as an instalment.

Monsieur H. Frandin, lately French Consul at Foochow, has been appointed Secretary to the Legation of the Republic at Peking. This appointment is ascribed to the influence of the present Minister of the Interior of France, M. Constans, who, while Plenipotentiary at Peking, and in the course of the negotiations that led to the revision of the Commercial Treaty negotiated before by M. Cogordan and the Viceroy Li, had occasion to appreciate the services of M. Frandin. Not without reason it is thought that the new secretary is sent out to infuse new life into the relations of the French Legation with the Tsung-li Yamén, which in spite of the loving cups drunk at the dinner given at the Yamén on the occasion of the retirement of the Empress Regent have come to almost a standstill. M. Frandin was to have left Marseilles by the mail steamer of the 12th of August.

The French Resident at Seoul has been at Peking for some days, the guest of Monsieur Lemaire, and it is surmised that the visit is in connection with the trouble which recently M. de Plancy experienced at the Korean capital in consequence of the assault made by a native servant of the Residency on the son of a Korean official of standing. It will be remembered in certain quarters that, in consequence of this occurrence, negotiations for a loan which a French syndicate had offered to the Korean Government broke down.

YOKOHAMA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Press Laws have been brought into requisition again in two notable cases during the last few days, the *Nippon*, the loudest and most powerful opposition journal in the capital, and the *Shinonome Shimbun*, the pet organ of the Daidoha party at Osaka having been peremptorily stopped. The copies of the *Nippon* which were already on sale at the stores and stalls were summarily withdrawn so that the objectionable matter, the matter calculated to disturb the public peace, should not pass into circulation. The exact nature of the offence in either case is a matter of conjecture pure and simple, the authorities not condescending to give explanations. The *Nippon* is the organ of the Daido Danketsu, the only opposition party worthy of the name at present existing in the country, so far as foreign observers can detect. It is only a few days since the ban was removed from the *Seiron*, a journal regarded by some as

the organ of Count Goto, Minister of State for Communications. The rigorous now characterising the administration of the Press Laws may conduce in no small measure to bring about a state of things favourable to an amelioration of the present laws. The darkest hour precedes the dawn; and a period of severity and hardship, it is not difficult to see, may be a harbinger of a happier and freer day to the men engaged in journalism in Japan. Let us at least hope so. The Press Laws are by no means wholly objectionable, some of the provisions being of a nature to ensure an effective check upon license and to protect and safeguard the interests of any individual unwarrantably or unfairly attacked or referred to in a newspaper.

Relative to Treaty Revision, the *Seiron* recently gave a reasonable article on the phase which though most deserving of attention has up to the present time received scant notice; the effect on the country of the opening the new treaties will afford to Chinese. It is undoubtedly from the Chinese that this people have most to dread, and least to expect by way of benefit or reward. Except in a few particulars the advent of the average Chinaman will not be attended with good results. His greater trustworthiness may, doubtless will, make itself felt in districts in the interior directly connected with the export trade, and in this respect the change would mean a distinct gain, not alone to the foreign buyers who would be released from the necessity of minute, piecemeal examination, but to the native in the way of an example of business reliability and probity carrying with it its own readily-apparent reward. But a very different result would attend the influx of Chinese in any numbers, their standard of living in many respects being decidedly lower than that of the Japanese. Their habits are objectionable, and unlike the Japanese, their one absorbing purpose in life is money-grubbing. It is true the wants of the ordinary Japanese are few and trifling and that he is and can be content with a mere pittance; but the pushing, long-suffering Chinaman is able to match him even on these counts, whilst unlike the Japanese he regards nothing as sacred from the consideration of pecuniary gain. There is an element of beauty and poetry in the life of a Japanese, but I doubt if the same could with truth be said of the Chinaman. Besides the question of the possible inrush of Chinese, there is the intricate problem arising out of the fact that there are now large numbers of Chinese who are naturalised British subjects. Will this constitute a special feature in the new treaty with Great Britain when that has to be drawn up?

Your readers have already learnt by wire of the conclusion of the new Treaty between this country and Russia. The treaty was signed at the Gaimusho (Foreign Office) by H.E. the Russian Minister on behalf of Russia, and Count Okuma, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs on behalf of Japan, at noon on Thursday last, the 8th instant. Though it is not publicly known what is the precise purport of the revised treaty, it is generally taken for granted that it is on much the same lines as the new treaties recently concluded with the United States and Germany. Some minor differences are said to exist, according to the *Jiji Shimpō* of the 9th instant. The statements which have appeared in some quarters to the effect that some special provision has been introduced in this last treaty relative to Nihilists and Nihilism can probably be dismissed as being purely chimerical. The next international compact on the new basis will, it is thought, be made with France, but another month or two, it is rumoured, will elapse ere that is finally settled, the French Minister, according to certain vernacular journals, at present insisting on conditions totally unacceptable to the statesman at the helm of Japan's foreign affairs. The *Mail* devoted

a note to the matter this morning, and there is undoubtedly a hitch in the negotiations with the Gallic Republic.

The powerful modern forts and batteries which the Government not very long since decided to erect on the Island of Tashima and at Bakan (Shimonoseki) have been completed. A fortified Tashima will doubtless tend to divert covetous eyes from a spot peculiarly favourable for the domination of the Japan Sea and the channels between Corea and Japan. The islands possess several excellent harbours, and the bays and inlets and coves of the extensive Sound would afford ample harbourage for an immense fleet. I believe it is a matter of history that the islands would have been in the hands of Russia more than twenty years since had it not been for the vigilance of an English man-of-war.

The authorities have definitely declined to sanction the proposals for the building of an overhead railway in the capital, the promoters and supporters have held a meeting and renounced the scheme and released the intending shareholders from their undertakings in connection with the matter. A large Telephone Company for Tokio and Yokohama is now reported to be projected by the authorities. Such a company would certainly prove an inestimable boon; and it is somewhat surprising that the example set by Shanghai so successfully was not followed long ere this.

Complaints are rife of inconvenience and annoyance travellers by rail (between this and Kobe) are subjected to in consequence of the determination of the Government to rigidly enforce the letter of the treaties; and if a leader in the *Hio-go News* may be accepted, the obstructive and narrow-minded policy is tending to divert the course of tourists and visitors. The only safeguard to adopt on coming here is to apply for a comprehensive passport, and to be careful to avoid attempting to reach places not covered by the pass one may have obtained.

The Russian flagship, the *Admiral Nakhimoff*, a ship of much the same type as the *Impérieuse*, arrived here this evening.

Aug. 13th.

Peking Gazettes.

ABSTRACT OF PEKING GAZETTE.

31st July.

THE LAND PROBLEM IN SHENSI.

About the year 1870, after the conclusion of the Mohammedan rebellion, 4,102 *ch'ing* of land in the province of Shensi, the property of rebels, was confiscated to the State. In 1865 an office was established for surveying the land and letting it out to tenants on the following terms. Superior ground was to pay a yearly rental of three piculs of grain, middle class land two piculs, while inferior soil was to be charged one picul 5 *tau*, and after a fixed number of payments the land was to become the property of the holders, who were to receive title deeds and be liable only for the land tax. The holdings were scattered through 25 districts and departments, and in one district there were some paddy fields which were included in the first class, while in the Tali district a certain amount of alluvial land was divided according to quality into three classes, which were to pay 5, 4 and 3 mace of silver per *mu* respectively. Between the years 1865 and 1880 no less than 3,400 *ch'ing*, or nearly 60,000 acres of land were let out in this way to cultivators, but the full payments entitling the holders to become proprietors were in the majority of cases not forthcoming. The late Governor of the province held an investigation into the matter, and finding that the most of the land which was not taken up was of a very poor description, reduced the rent upon it to two piculs for the best class of land, 1 picul 3 *tau* for second class, and 1

picul for the worst, and commuted the tax upon all the land occupied or unoccupied to 100 cash per *ton* for wheat and 150 cash per *ton* for rice. Some time later a further reduction of rent was made upon the unoccupied lots, which were offered to cultivators free for three years, after which they were to pay 1 picul 5 *ton*, 1 picul, and 7 *ton* 5 *sheng* for the three classes respectively. At the end of last year, when the present Governor assumed office, there were still 530 *ch'ing* of the land unreclaimed, and very heavy arrears of rent upon the occupied portion. The tenants presented a petition in which they alleged that all the occupiers of good land, and tenants who had the means to do so, had paid their yearly instalments in full and had received their title deeds, and that those who were in arrears were wretchedly poor people who had been allotted bad and stony soil. On this they asked that all arrears should be cancelled and title deeds granted at the expiration of the period after which the land tax became chargeable. The Governor admitted that in the case of ground which had not been reclaimed the Government had no right whatever to levy a rent upon people who brought it under cultivation. The present case was, however, a different one, and the rent he considered rather in the light of a purchase price for the land. He considered, however, that the tenants deserved much sympathy, as the payment of rent and land tax combined was quite beyond their means, and by way of alleviating their position, he asked his executive to investigate the question and suggest some remedy for their grievances. The latter reported that the rent had been paid upon only 1,690 *ch'ing* of the occupied land, and that the total arrears amounted to 180,200 piculs of grain. The total receipts in the shape of rent had been 210,000 piculs which represented a commutation value of Tls. 170,000. They had great difficulty in recommending any measure of alleviation, for if the whole arrears were remitted the tenants who made punctual payment would feel aggrieved, while on the other hand, having regard to the crippled condition of the people, it would be hopeless to attempt to extract payment on the old scale. After a full consideration of all the circumstances, they finally recommended a remission of 30 per cent. on all lands which have been reclaimed, and for which title deeds have not been issued, and as regards the unoccupied land, of which only 350 *ch'ing* remain, they propose a still further reduction of rent as an inducement for farmers to undertake its reclamation. Under the new system it will be let out for 3 years free of rent, after which it will pay 1 picul, 6 *ton* 7 *sheng*, or 5 *ton* of grain per *mow* according to quality, to be commuted into cash payments on the scale formerly arranged. Neither of the previous two re-assessments had affected the alluvial ground in the Ta-li district, and it is proposed that the present reduction of 30 per cent. should be made applicable to it also, and that the rent of the unoccupied ground there, which now only amounts to 130 *ch'ing* should be reduced to 4 mace for the best quality, 3.2 mace for the second, and 2.4 mace for the worst kind. It is hoped that these proposals will afford a substantial measure of relief to the tenants, and the sanction of the Throne is solicited on their behalf.—*Referred to the consideration of the Board of Revenue.*

1st August.

INUNDATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF KUANGTUNG.

The Viceroy at Canton reports that serious inundations have taken place in the prefectures of Hui-chou and Ch'ao-chou, and in the department of Chia-ying, which have been attended with great destruction of life and property, especially in the latter place. According to reports

which have been received from Hui-chou Fu, it appears that in the various districts in the prefecture heavy rain has fallen uninterruptedly from the beginning of summer, and that early in June several rivers overflowed their banks and laid Kuei-shan, Po-lo, and other places under water, causing great destruction of crops and property. The Prefect of Ch'ao-chou Fu telegraphed to the effect that about the same time the water rose to an unusual height and swept away in its violent career houses, trees, and everything that opposed its course. A number of dead bodies which were carried along by the current were recovered and buried. At Ta-sha there was great destruction of boats and salt, but the prefectural city itself had not suffered very severely. A telegram despatched from Chia-ying Chou on the 2nd of June reported the occurrence of severe floods with great loss of life and property. In one place over one thousand rooms were carried away by the deluge, and in the Hai-ying district two hundred coffins which had floated down with the current were recovered and buried. The Taotai has been authorised to borrow a sum of Tls. 5,000 from the local merchants to provide relief until assistance can arrive from Canton, from which place Tls. 10,000 have been already despatched to the scene of the disaster.

VISIT OF THE VICEROY OF CANTON TO CERTAIN DISTRICTS ON THE NORTH AND WEST RIVERS.

The Viceroy of Canton reports that last winter he issued instructions to the local authorities to have all the weak parts of the embankments of the North, East and West Rivers thoroughly repaired, and despatched officials to encourage the gentry and people to provide funds for the purpose, and co-operate in the work generally. The month of May was unusually rainy in Canton, and the Viceroy fearing that the new embankments might not be substantial enough to withstand the strain of the water, determined to visit the locality himself. Accordingly, on the 20th of May, he started from Canton in a steam launch, going first for some distance up the North River, then turning into the West River, and making his way back by the North River. During his tour, which lasted five days, he visited all the more important sections of the rivers which could be reached by a steam launch, in San-shui, Ssu-hui, Kao-yao, Kao-ming, Nan-hai, and other districts, spending night and day in inspecting the embankments and seeing for himself the condition of the work. In parts where he could not land he satisfied himself from the deck of the launch that the work had been faithfully carried out. Since his return to Canton floods have occurred in some of the districts visited, but the embankments have in no case been seriously endangered, and if the present prospect of fairly good weather continues no great disaster is to be anticipated in the districts inspected by the Viceroy.

2nd August.

[No papers of interest.]

3rd August.

EXAMINATIONS IN FORMOSA.

The Governor of Formosa, who fills in addition the office of Literary Chancellor, reports that he has held the prefectural examinations in the two cities of Tai-nan and Tai-pei. He travelled to Tai-nan (Taiwan Fu) by steamer, taking the opportunity to visit the forts on the Pescadores by the way. Having concluded the examinations in the southern city, he came north again and conducted those in Tai-pei. Altogether there were more than four thousand literary candidates and six hundred military. There was one case discovered of fraudulent personation of a candidate. The man arrested was handed to the proctors, by whom he was condemned to be exposed in a cangue.

ARMSTRONG GUNS FOR FORMOSA AND THE PESCADORES.

Three years ago, says the Governor of Formosa, the Emperor sanctioned the construction of forts to be armed with heavy guns at Keelung, Tamsui, Takow and the Pescadores. In pursuance of this arrangement, the memorialist made an agreement with the British firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co. that they should supply thirty one steel breech-loading Armstrong guns of a new pattern. The price was fixed at Tls. 600,000, to be paid in three instalments, and included the cost of carriages, projectiles, packing cases and freight. A contract to the above effect was signed by both parties, the memorialist being represented by the Commissary of Ordnance and the Tamsui Magistrate. The agreement was reported to the Admiralty Board at Peking; and the Chinese Minister in London was requested, through the Taungli Yamén, to have the guns inspected by one of his staff before their shipment. As it was difficult to construct a suitable landing stage at the Pescadores, a further agreement was made with the contractors that for an additional sum of Tls. 5,000 they should supply two lighters which could be used in disembarking the pieces. It has now been reported to the memorialist by the officers concerned at the different ports that between last summer and the present spring, the cannon have all been landed by the contractors, and have been inspected, found in good condition and taken over. Payment has also been made for them on the proper dates in accordance with the agreement.—*Noted.*

FORTRESS IN THE PESCADORES.

A memorial from the Governor of Formosa says that the Pescadore Islands are a point of the greatest importance with regard to the defence both of the Province of Fukien and the Island of Formosa. The memorialist visited the islands four years ago in company with the then Governor General at Foochow, on which occasion the latter officer conceived the idea of constructing a fortress there. This proposition was strongly supported by the gentry and common people of the islands. After a careful inspection, Ma-kung Harbour was selected as the site, and last autumn the General in command commenced the building of a fortress, which would connect together the various batteries. Plans of the works have already been sent to the Board of War.—*Noted.*

4th August.

GOVERNOR OF SHENG-CHING RETIRES.

Ch'ing-yü, Military Governor of the Manchurian Province of Sheng-ching, has received permission to vacate his post on the ground of continued ill-health.

TROOPS SENT TO URGA.

At the beginning of last winter the Comptroller-General at Urga reported that there was a good deal of highway robbery in the country round that city, and for the purpose of preserving order he requested that he might have the services of a detachment of cavalry from Hsüan-hua Fu near Kalgan. His application having been approved by the Emperor, a communication was sent to the Viceroy Li Hung-chang, in order that the proposal might be carried into effect. It was found impossible, however, to despatch the men at the moment. In the first place the detachment was not at its headquarters, but was away patrolling the country in the neighbourhood of Chiung-p'eng to the north of Lama Miao, where it had been sent after its return from Urga three years ago. Secondly, during the winter months there would be great difficulty in providing transport cattle at the government post-stations, and the grass would be withered and the water frozen. Arrangements were therefore made for the men to depart during the present summer. The force consists of 250 troopers; but counting in officers, supernumeraries,

and sutlers, the total mounts up to 356 persons. In order that the post stations might not be distressed by providing for too many men at once, it was settled that the whole body should be divided into ten parties of thirty-five, under the charge of an officer. Each party would require from the post-stations thirty-six riding and fifteen baggage camels, also a sufficient supply of tents and of *argols* for fuel. The soldiers will draw extra pay according to the scale allowed for distant service, namely at the rate of one-fifth of a tael each per month. They will also all require sheepskin coats costing two and a half taels. In addition to these there are other charges, for forty supernumeraries, for purchasing and forwarding grain, and for supplying fuel. Finally, the Viceroy Li Hung-chang hopes that the arrangement may be only temporary, and that a regular force may be raised for service at Urga. The troops now sent are much wanted for their proper duty of preserving order in the vicinity of the metropolis.—*Approved.*

LOSS OF A GRAIN-JUNK.

The Viceroy Li Hung-chang reports that a certain junk laden with about three thousand piculs of tribute rice set sail from Shanghai on the 14th of March last. On the 29th of the same month it arrived outside the Taku Bar, where it was wrecked in a gale. The crew were picked up out of the water, but the vessel sank with all the rice on board, as well as the two-tenths of extra cargo which the junk-owner was allowed by regulation to carry. The Viceroy is satisfied that the accident happened from causes beyond human control and was not due to careless navigation. He therefore prays that the amount of rice may be written off as lost, instead of any one being held responsible for it.—*Granted.*

5th August.

MURDER IN TURKESTAN.

The Acting Governor of Chinese Turkestan reports the sentence passed by him upon a man found guilty on a charge of murder. Four years ago a native of Honan named Kuo Pao-t'ai was living in the district of Sui-lai, or Manas, where he made a livelihood by weaving mats. That winter he married a widow woman and took charge of her only son. The next spring he left home on business, and before his departure asked a friend to look after his family for him. Afterwards the friend likewise had occasion to go away from the place, and therefore gave them into the charge of another man, Chang Chên-piao. The woman was ill at the time, and shortly afterwards she died. The temporary guardian asked some friends to give him their assistance in burying her, which, after inspecting the body, they did. By and by a friend of the orphan boy's father passed through the place, and pitying the child's forlorn condition took him away with the intention of bringing him up. In doing this he had the perfect consent of the guardian and other villagers. A distorted account of what had happened afterwards reached the husband in the place where he was. He was told that there were suspicious circumstances connected with his wife's death, and that Chang Chên-piao had sold the child. He therefore hurried back in a state of great indignation; near home he met Chang Chên-piao and questioned him vehemently regarding the truth of the story. The latter denied it utterly and reproached him for making groundless accusations. A quarrel thus commenced. Chang Chên-piao threw a stone at the husband and struck him with it in the eye. The latter drew a knife and stabbed his assailant in the arm and the leg. The wounded man fell, and as he lay on the ground continued to utter abuse and curses, threatening to have his revenge as soon as his wounds were healed. The other still did not know whether the story was true concerning his wife and

her child, and moreover was rendered furious by the language which he heard. He at the same time was afraid that he might get into trouble afterwards for what he had done. Influenced by these motives he resolved to murder the wounded man, and thereupon cut his throat while he lay upon the ground. The murderer fled, but was afterwards arrested and brought to justice. The memorialist finds that the crime committed is that of deliberate murder, for which the punishment is branding and decapitation after the usual period of confinement. To these penalties he has therefore sentenced the prisoner.—*Referred to the Board of Punishments.*

6th August.

NEW GOVERNOR OF SHENG-CHING.

Yü-lu, recently Governor-General of Hunan and Hupei, has been appointed Military Governor of Shêng-ching.

PENSIONS GRANTED TO RETIRING OFFICERS.

A memorial presented by the Acting Governor of Turkestan refers to the disbanding of the Manchu troops belonging to Barkoul and their incorporation into the force forming the Guchen garrison. Among the officers of the disbanded troops are two Majors over sixty years of age, one Major and two Captains over fifty years, and one Captain in his fiftieth year. These six gentlemen having requested permission to retire on a pension, the Governor desired the Acting Provincial Treasurer to enquire into the matter. It appears from the latter's report that, according to law, officials of the third or any lower grade who retire from the public service on account of age or ill-health are allowed on so doing to retain the rank which they previously held; and, there is a further provision in favour of those who have seen active military service and have had their names recorded once or twice for merit on account of their having killed or captured rebels or having been themselves wounded. Such officers, should His Majesty be pleased to grant the favour, may be allowed, if over sixty years of age, to continue to receive their full pay, and, if over fifty years, to receive their half pay. The memorialist is aware that the Governor Liu Chin-t'ang, for whom he is acting, made an arrangement by which the officers of the disbanded Manchu troops were all granted troopers' pay and allowances. But he would call to mind the dangerous situation of Barkoul in former days, when it was cut off and surrounded by rebels, and the dangers undergone by these officers in defending the walls or encountering the enemy in the open field. For these reasons he hopes that the six officers may be allowed to retire in enjoyment of the pensions for which by their services they are legally qualified.

7th August.

NEW PREFECTURE IN KIRIN.

The Governor of Kirin proposes the name of an officer to take charge of the new and important prefecture of Ch'ang-ch'ün which has been established in the place of the former sub-prefecture of the same name.

8th August.

CHANGES AMONG HIGH OFFICIALS.

Chang Chi-tung is transferred to the Governor Generalship of Hunan and Hupei; and Li Han-chang is appointed in his place Governor General of Kuangtung and Kuangsi. Li Han-chang will take up his appointment immediately, and on his arrival at Canton, Chang Chi-tung will proceed at once to his new post without coming to Peking to receive orders.

SEDITION IN KIANGSI.

According to a report presented by the Governor, there has of late been a great deal of treason and sedition in the province of Kiangsi. Last year, as has already been reported, a plot was formed with the object of seizing the prefectural city of Jui-chow; but the affair was discovered and the ring-

leader seized and executed. More recently the memorialist obtained intelligence of the existence of a number of secret societies, the members of which were disbanded soldiers and other people whom they had appointed leaders under high sounding titles, and their treasonable designs were manifested both by their language and their conduct. Agents of these societies frequented the eating houses and opium dens throughout the country, and when they found any discharged soldiers returning home, they forced them to enroll themselves as members and pay fees, using violence to those who refused to comply.

Learning that a society of this kind was actively at work in Kuang-hsin Fu, which adjoins the province of Fukien, the memorialist sent a general officer with a small body of troops to co-operate with the local authorities in arresting the offenders. In due time the General reported the capture of one man at Ho-k'ou with a number of treasonable articles, and of five men and a quantity of weapons at Jen-an. A sixth man, the leader of this latter party, was drowned in attempting to escape by swimming. But his body was recovered and identified beyond doubt. These men were all brought to the provincial capital for trial. It was further discovered through the agency of detectives that two important conspirators were concealed at Na-k'ou across the frontier, upon which the memorialist requested the Viceroy at Foochow to secure their arrest. Later again, the authorities of Chi-an Fu seized four men with an order-book and a number of badges. These men when examined deposed that their two leaders were hiding in Nan-an and Yuan-chou. Telegraphic orders having been sent to the authorities of those places, both these men and a third were arrested. On account of the distance from the capital orders were given to try them on the spot and report proceedings.

In addition to these active measures the memorialist has issued notifications permitting ignorant people who have accepted badges from the societies to surrender them to the authorities without fear of punishment. The country is now in a peaceful condition again.

SEASONABLE RAIN IN ANHUI.

The Governor of Anhui reports that about the end of May copious rains fell in both the north and the south of the province. There is no danger of want of water anywhere except in Hofei and Ch'u Chow. In these localities the rain and snow of last winter were sufficient for the wheat and barley harvest, which has now been gathered, so that the spring taxes can be collected by the authorities. But on account of the great drought which prevailed there last summer, an unusual supply of rain will be required to fill the ponds for watering the rice crops; and the memorialist does not predict what condition of things will prevail in the autumn.

9th August.

DEATH OF TARTAR GENERAL KUNG-TANG.

An Imperial Decree notices the recent death of Kung-t'ang, late Military Governor of the Province of Hei-lung Chiang. This officer had been transferred to the Generalship of the Tartar Garrison at Hangchow, but died while on the way to his new post. Great regret is expressed by the Emperor, who orders that the late General shall receive all the marks of favour usually accorded to an officer of his rank, and shall be forgiven any penalties which he may have incurred in the performance of his official duties. The corpse will be allowed to be brought into Peking for the celebration of the funeral obsequies there. Promotion is granted to the deceased's son, who is an official in the Board of Punishment.

FIRE AT CHOU-CHIA-K'OU.

The Governor of Honan reports the occurrence of a very serious fire at the populous

difficulty of giving that time to the corps which he felt it demanded. Shortly afterwards, the command of the corps was entrusted to him (the speaker), and several meetings of officers were held for the purpose of appointing a successor. None of those, however, who were regarded as most competent would allow themselves to be nominated. From his own experience he was certain that the command of the corps had hitherto involved a considerable expenditure of time, and he was equally certain that the person elected to the post must be literally master of his own time. Under the circumstances, and in order to obviate such a difficulty in future, the officers petitioned the Council to increase and place in a more satisfactory basis the permanent staff of the corps. They asked for the services of a competent adjutant from the regular army and for two competent non-commissioned officers well up in their work. The Council, in reply, expressed themselves very willing to do all in their power to obtain the services of two non-commissioned officers from the regular army; but they did not see their way to obtain an adjutant as suggested. They promised, however, if the present drill season continued, to do all they could to obtain the services of an officer from Hongkong. With this promise from the Council, the officers considered that the duties of commanding officer would be less burdensome, and, therefore, that the reasons which influenced Mr. Morrison in resigning would lose their force. They accordingly addressed a letter to Mr. Morrison, asking him to allow himself to be re-nominated for the command of the corps. The following reply had been received:—

Shanghai, 5th August.

"I have to thank you sincerely for the very great and undeserved compliment you have paid me in inviting me to allow myself to be nominated for re-election as Commandant of the Volunteer Corps.

"I feel sure that the Volunteers and the Council will do all that they can to assist the commanding officer in the discharge of his duties, and that therefore anyone occupying the post will be relieved of routine work to the full extent that he can reasonably expect. On the other hand it occasionally happens that the performance of duties which cannot or, at all events, ought not to be delegated, interferes seriously with business arrangements; and if I were again in command, I could not promise in such case to make the Volunteers my first consideration.

"It was my unwillingness to ask the Corps to make some concessions on this point which induced me to send in my resignation in the spring; but if the members are willing to accept such services as, subject to this proviso, I am prepared to render, I will promise to do all in my power for the advancement of the Corps, in the welfare of which I continue to take the deepest interest; and if you think this is a fair proposal to make, I shall feel honoured by being nominated for the post of commanding officer.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,
"Your obedient servant,
"G. JAMES MORRISON."

Capt. BRIGHT, proceeding, said it only remained for him to nominate Mr. Morrison; and he felt sure that nomination would receive ready support (applause). They could not do better than thank him for having come forward again, and show their appreciation of his past services by electing him unanimously to the post of commanding officer of the Shanghai Volunteer Corps—an election which Mr. Morrison would be as proud to receive as they were to confer (applause).

Capt HUGH seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously, with loud applause. No other name was submitted to the meeting.

Major MORRISON, in returning thanks, said he should like to say a few words with reference to his resignation and subsequent acceptance of the post. There was no doubt a certain amount of routine work which had to be done by the commanding officer; but that would not fall more heavily upon him than upon any other member who undertook the post, and on the whole he was in as good a position as most people to devote the necessary time to those duties; but it must be remembered that the arrangements made by the commanding officer with reference to parades or training seasons had to be attended to by him. He might make a rule that an ordinary member might make up for one Saturday afternoon parade by attending two evening drills; but no such attendance on the part of the commanding officer would be sufficient; and to devote the necessary time to these engagements often interfered seriously with business. In writing the letter which had been read, he was asking them to believe that if at any future time he should appear to be lax in the performance of his duties, it would be that his business engagements would not permit him to do otherwise; and that if either business or the Volunteers had to go to the wall, it must be the Volunteers. Probably no great difficulty would occur; and he hoped he would be able to perform his duties in that way. Passing on to refer to one or two points connected with the Corps, the speakers pointed out the need of strengthening the Light Horse. There seemed to be a feeling on the part of riding men that they need not join the Light Horse at once, but that they could do so when they were wanted. He should like to point out that there was a great deal to be learnt in connection with Light Horse duties; and it must be with the Light Horse themselves to show this to the public. He was strongly of opinion that the Light Horse should be cavalry, and not mounted infantry. He took it that the only work they would ever have to do would be to suppress a street riot; and for that purpose mounted infantry would be useless, while cavalry would be very useful. If, as was the case 25 years ago, when the rebels were advancing, they had to hold a position outside the town, mounted infantry would be useful. But, in the event of such a contingency, there would be plenty of time to drill men and make them into mounted infantry; while cavalry work took years and years to learn, and in fact the main objection to Volunteer cavalry was that its members were unable to give sufficient time to the work. Therefore he did not suppose the Light Horse could ever be perfect cavalry soldiers. He trusted that the matter would be taken up by those interested in it, and that men at the races, paper hunts &c., would be induced to join. Referring to the other branches of the Corps, Major Morrison observed that the Artillery was in a very good state. The Infantry was rather short of numbers, but its only weak point was a want of smartness which, he was afraid, must always exist (unless they had a very efficient permanent staff), as there were no regular soldiers with whom the members could compare themselves and from whom they could learn. As to the permanent staff if they had an officer for a month during the training season, he had no doubt the standard would be greatly improved. They wanted an officer who would take the other officers in hand and talk to them as Captain Fletcher did to the Artillery last year. In conclusion, Major Morrison observed that when a man was in a post and saw things going wrong, his business was to put things right and not to leave in a huff. He (the speaker) was quite sure they did not believe he had done that. He had resigned simply on account of the interference of Volunteer duties with his business; and he came back again because he understood that, to some slight extent,

as might be necessary, they would allow him to let his business have the first call. (Applause.)

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Amusements.

SHANGHAI CRICKET CLUB.

Saturday was a great day with the Shanghai Cricket Club; for was it not then that the Eleven was to do battle with an opposing Eleven of the Race Club? and was it not then that the exhausted combatants and their friends and fellow-members were to refresh themselves with a banquet followed by a smoking concert? And so all these things came to pass; whereof followeth the chronicle.

Two o'clock was the time fixed for the match; but everybody felt that not even for the sake of punctuality was it advisable to risk an attack of sunstroke or heat apoplexy. Even at a quarter to five, when play began, fielding was too hot to be pleasant, and the play generally was, naturally and consequently, not of a high order of merit. The Cricket Club, having the good fortune to win the toss, occupied the wickets during two hours, the entire time of play; but even the moderate total (154) would have been materially reduced had all the chances offered been accepted. The first two batsmen were Orman and Black, who faced the bowling of Stewart and Wade. Runs came freely at first. Black obtained three 2's in one over from Wade, whom he then hit to the on for 4, but in that bowler's next over Black, who had made 13 out of 17, was clean bowled in attempting to hit to leg. F. Anderson, who joined Orman, hit the first ball he received for 4, to which his partner responded by two boundary hits in quick succession. Anderson next hit Wade to the on for 5—a very fine hit. This brought on Ogle in place of Wade, from whose bowling 32 out of 47 had been scored. The hitting continued, Orman getting Ogle nearly square for 4, and Anderson driving Stewart into the dining-tent for another 4. With the total at 63, however, Anderson was dismissed by Ogle, and four runs later Orman was caught at the wicket, after a stay of three-quarters of an hour. Smith and Woodward, who were now together, added runs steadily, and the total at the end of an hour's play was 80. At 90, Smith was caught from a skyer at cover-point, and was succeeded by St. Croix. The hundred was reached at six o'clock, and at 112 St. Croix, who had scored 16 out of 22 during his stay, was given out in response to an appeal for a catch at the wicket, though the ball appeared to have touched only the batsman's pad. Woodward's excellent innings was closed at 122 by a fine catch by Wood at third man, standing square, high up with one hand. At 6.45, when stumps and the match were drawn, the score stood at 154 for nine wickets, and was as follows:

CRICKET CLUB.

J. Orman, c. Wickham, b. Stewart	26
C. A. Black, b. Wade	13
F. Anderson, b. Ogle	24
C. F. Woodward, c. Wood, b. Perrott	35
F. Smith, c. Wood, b. Ogle	8
A. de St. Croix, c. Wickham, b. Stewart	16
H. Marshall, c. Reynell, b. Stewart	0
W. Bates, not out	12
D. Jones, c. Ogle, b. Stewart	10
A. Anderson, c. and b. Ogle	2
B. I. W. I.	2

Total (9 wickets)....154

W. H. Drummond did not bat.

The Race Club team was as follows:—A. P. Wood (Capt.), H. T. Wade, H. R. Hearn, H. A. J. Macray, R. G. Ogle, S. Reynell, A. Stewart, H. H. Read, E. S. Perrott, E. Tomlin, and E. P. Wickham.

There was a fairly large attendance, including several ladies. The Town Band, under the direction of Chev. Vela, played on the ground during the afternoon.

At half-past seven, about 100 members and friends sat down to dinner in a large marquee, erected close to the cricket pavilion and prettily illuminated with Chinese lanterns and opal globes. Mr. Arthur Anderson, President of the Club, took the chair, with Mr. J. M. Ringer, as the Senior Steward and representative of the Race Club, on his right hand. At the conclusion of the repast,

The Chairman observed that this was the second annual dinner, and he was glad to see it so numerously attended. He hoped it would be held every succeeding year and be even better attended. Speechmaking was not to be the order of the evening, but there was one toast to be proposed, and which was "Prosperity to kindred institutions, and especially to the Shanghai Race Club" (applause). They had been indebted to that Club for many acts of kindness and many kind offices which they very much appreciated (applause).

Mr. Ringer, in response, expressed the pleasure it had given and would always give the Race Club to extend any courtesy in its power to the Cricket Club. Humourously referring to the match just concluded, the speaker said he had not felt very confident in the success of his team: but when he remembered having seen an international match won by the steady play of two men, one of them with a damaged pastern-joint (laughter), he felt that if good intentions were as efficacious for cricket as for paving stones (renewed laughter), the match would have been theirs, easily.

Mr. Ringer then proposed the health of the Cricket Club team, which was duly honoured.

Everybody then adjourned to the cricket pavilion, which, like the dining-tent, was brilliant with flags and Chinese lanterns of all shapes and sizes. The raised floor of the building formed an excellent stage, in front of which the President was seated, supported on his right by a large bell which was occasionally brought into play with great effect. Humorous songs were in the majority; but the gems of the programme were Mr. Franks' singing of "Dinah Doe" and "Sigh no more, ladies, and a quartette, by Messrs. Fleet, Franks, Ivy and Ringer. Mr. H. J. Sharp, in "Waiting, waiting, waiting," effectively introduced verses containing allusions to rope shares and other local topics. "Auld Lang Syne" brought the day's proceedings, which were a complete success, to a close shortly before midnight.

The programme was as follows.

- 1.—Pianoforte Solo. Marche des Troubadours Mr. Davis.
- 2.—Song. Anchored " C. Evans.
- 3.—" The Nice Old Maid " Kerr.
- 4.—" That's the way to the Zoo " "
- 5.—Recitation. The Captain Bar " King.
- 6.—Song. When the ship's going " Such.
- 7.—" When other lips (parody) " "
- 8.—" Dinah Doe " Franks.
- 9.—" Sigh no more, Ladies " "
- 10.—Quartette. (repeated) Messrs. Fleet, Franks, Ivy and Ringer.
- 11.—Song. The Man that struck O'Hara Mr. Bat s.
- 12.—" Killaloe " "
- 13.—" The Tar's Farewell " Tulloch.
- 14.—" Waiting, Waiting, Waiting " H. J. Sharp.
- 15.—" Old Ireland so Green " "
- 16.—" On Sentimental Songs " Bates.
- 17.—" Old Lang Syne, (parody) " Such.

* Given in response to an encore.

S. V. C.

The usual monthly practice challenge cup of No. 3 Co. was competed for on the 16th and 17th instant, and was won by

Priv. Roalf, for the first time, with a total of 53—the higher scorers being handicapped. There were fourteen competitors. The following are the scores over forty:—

	200 yds.	500 yds.	Tl.
Lieut Lanning	454545-31	3444552-27	—58
" Gilby	3444452-26	5345533-28	—54
Priv. Roalf	4444345-28	5253325-25	—53
" King	2354455-28	2555303-23	—51
" Culshaw	4244223-21	5454333-27	—48
Serg. Bowman	3332554-25	2453243-23	—48
" Edgar	3443544-27	2532225-21	—48
Priv. Turabull	4433443-25	3332542-22	—47
" Carion	3344345-26	2503250-17	—43

Correspondence.

THE FLOODS IN SHANTUNG.

To the Editor of the

NORTH-CHINA DAILY NEWS.

SIR,—I send you an important account of the recent outbreaks of the Yellow River, giving in detail a report of the places and extent of the various breaks from the personal observation of the writer. He went through a large portion of the newly inundated districts, and describes in vivid terms what he saw and heard. The whole aspect of the thing is strikingly given, and needed indeed only to be told as it really is. What is to be done is a serious question. The Government is called upon to rise to the occasion, and though through all the ages accustomed to these outbreaks of China's Sorrow, and to repair them as they best could, it is high time that they should avail themselves of the skill and experience now within their reach for the more effectual remedying of the evil.

In the meanwhile the sufferers are crying for relief. The Government and native charity will no doubt largely interfere. It is their part to do it. However much our noble-minded and self-denying missionaries in the field are willing to continue their generous work, it is impossible that foreign help can be again pleaded for and given as it has recently been. The Government not only feels but acknowledges its responsibility, and that in a remarkable manner of late in Shantung, where it seems efforts were made by the authorities to do away with all foreign aid whatsoever. It is only wished that the highest officials were roused to a full sense of their duty in the matter, and to the adoption of such measures as would tend to mitigate or avert this great and constantly recurring calamity.

Yours truly,
WM. MURHEAD.

22nd August.

Tsen-ping Hien, 2nd August, 1889.

On the morning of the 19th of July I left this town in company with Mr. Harmon, bound for Pu-tai and Po-hing on a missionary journey. Going N.E. till near sunset and being then within a short distance of Kao-yuan town we crossed the Siao Tsing Ho, and stopped and examined the banks, the height of the water and the strength of the current. I should say the level of the water was ten feet (English) below the ridge of the bank and the water about four feet deep, moving say $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles an hour. Rained all that night, all next day and part of the next night. There was also heavy rain on the 21st, impeding our journey and leaving the ground in a very sloppy condition; in fact we had to go along barefooted all the afternoon. At length we reached our destination and remained in that neighbourhood for about seven or eight days. The crops were then splendid—better than for years past. The great source of alarm then above and below Pu-tai city was the height of the water in the Yellow River, owing to the heavy rains before mentioned. It had then swollen to within less than three

English feet of the top of the bank. Of 120 villages in Pu-tai country, lying along its course between the Yellow River proper and the outer Imperial bank two miles farther inland, only two, or at most three, were left habitable. All the others had been submerged until the door lintels were not visible, the inhabitants of course all flying. The gradual rise of the waters had forced a considerable quantity to ooze out through and under the bank. Last winter this was the case also. It then, wet the ground for about 100 yards inland; now it was oozing, or oozing and then spreading, for six to nine hundred yards inland at the narrowest, and in some places this ooze-water spread two miles and more over the ground. The city of Pu-tai inside the bank, which has a special loop-dyke to protect it, was then already half full of this ooze-water. In many places the Imperial dyke showed signs of giving way; great efforts were being made to strengthen it at all such places.

On the 26th of July we heard that during that night the river had dropped two feet (English) and for a time there was general rejoicing, but quickly came the rumour that the banks had burst up stream, and then followed suspense in every one's mind, not knowing what might follow. Shortly after, official messengers came down ordering the cessation of all expense on the works, giving certain information that the river had burst on the southern side in Chang-kiu-hien, and that the waters were coming east. Experience had shown the people, of course generally, how the water would come. I say generally because where it had formerly during overflows run with a slack current the deposit would be considerable, and this would now appear as an elevation to force a change of course. To what extent this did actually take place I cannot say.

As soon as the water inside the great outer bank had dropped, it was found that between it and the bank proper—that is, all along the inner space two miles wide provided for overflow—there had been a deposit of about three feet (English) of mud left by the river during the past six months, since it returned northward from Honan in February last. This shows how the mere policy of just lazily handing over so much ground to the river to do what it likes with, eventually defeats itself, for now, that three feet of deposit has to be heaved by the water before it will run north-east again over that same overflow bed.

As to the rapidity of the inundation. Of course, up near the breach I have no means of judging, but it is certain that, although one night sufficed to swell the streams coming down from the west, yet it was from three to four days before there was anything like a flood apparent—an expanse of water very wide—say ninety miles below the breach where we were. Of course it then filled every hollow as it came along. I heard the people say, the day before I left, that its width on the north side came away, about two miles during one night. They thought that very slow.

Mr. Harmon and I, no danger, about ridge where there was a narrow edge, and three miles from the north. I then achieved the object of my visit having been 30th of July, leaving him to go farther north.

It was exceedingly difficult to get information as to where extemporised means could be had for crossing the flood to go home, but I at last decided to make for Tien-chên—a market town in Pu-tai-hsien. There I first saw the water outside the dammed south-gate and the following morning, i.e. July 31st, I went aboard the shabby, leaky old catamaran that was to carry us over.

We had twelve to fifteen English miles to go, and it took from seven in the morning till dark to get across to the southern bank, including a delay of two hours during an extra heavy downpour. The entire distance

was done on the water without change of boat. We followed the course of the roads—i.e. where roads had been. The first five miles, being the most favoured part, was through the crops, the water being fairly clear; all beans, standing about one foot high, were submerged. All cotton that was at all visible was half submerged. Corn (yellow millet) three feet high, that was at all visible, had little more than the ears out of the water. The tall red-millet or sorghum that was visible had mostly about three feet of stalk besides the ear above the surface—the pollen still hanging to it, and very few ears as yet developed into grain. The flood had come too soon to allow of the grain being developed enough to use; if otherwise the people might have either waded in, or gone on rafts or sampans, to rescue the ears and some of the stalks. Another ten days up there in that region would have altered all that; as it is, the stalks will not have even substance for firewood, they tell me. Of course we passed through immense tracts where nothing was visible but the tall red millet-tops say about three feet exposed, all else totally below water. As to depth, the general impression I got was that the average would be five feet or five feet six inches English.

As we neared the centre the water got yellower, until at last we came to a broad expanse say two miles wide, very yellow, quite turbid, running east two or three miles per hour, and with waves on it caused by the wind driving against the current. Having passed this stretch we again went through another band of cultivation, part half over water as on the northern side.

Along our whole route villages were everywhere to be seen, apparently the people all still in them. Some few villages were on elevations that put the inhabited space completely above the water level, others were on slight elevations that left the level of the street say a foot under the flood level; but the majority had to trust to dams to keep the water from being two or three feet deep in the streets. We saw quite a number of people baling the water out of their courts with that swinging-basket arrangement they use so much for irrigating.

As to the prospect of a further rise of the water, the Chinese say that at present the water rushes down from the Yellow River into the flooded space, and that it will not merely flow over until the main body of the waters has reached, filled up the space inside, and overflowed a ridge north of Lo-an city, which is the highest point it will encounter going eastward. I noticed that when we approached the Siao Tsing Ho, and entered it through a breach in its banks, we descended about nine inches and when we emerged at the other side through the south bank, we again descended about one foot (English). Nevertheless, though the water had not yet reached its height, the villagers on the southern shore say that this time the inundation had trespassed farther south than ever before, and of course, from the above, must go yet farther.

On the boat with me crossing was a small official—a deputy sent down by the Governor to investigate the state of matters on the upper section of the flood. He had been to the breach in the southern bank and told me there were thirteen openings through which the water poured out—all in line, and covering quite a length of bank; the water had not only run eastward but had made a return and run backward on low ground to the west until it met a ridge 20 li off that stopped it. This of course will make it impossible to get dry earth near the breaches—i.e., none to be had within six miles of them—anything but an encouraging prospect to the repairers.

I estimated the populated and arable space flooded to be from 2,000 to 2,300 square miles, and I suppose the sufferers say about 300,000 people. That, of course,

leaves out the waste parts of the flooded district, the last 30 or 40 miles next the sea coast, both as to area and population.

The particulars I have given are either things that I saw myself, heard from eye-witnesses, or points on which native testimony at various points wholly unconnected was found similar.

Of the locality or extent of the breach on the north side I could gain no trustworthy information, nor as to the direction the water had taken northward.

Crossing over on the boat the only other passengers we had were three disreputable looking fellows who apparently were losing no time about their business, bad weather or not. The whole set were one gang engaged in negotiating for the sale of women and children—regular brokers coming down from Chih-li with orders to fill—or, (for they had plenty of money with them) perhaps coming back after having “placed” some of the unfortunates they had speculated in—but any way a horrible grim feature in the whole outlook even to just think of what those men must have been pondering when they looked at the scene of their future bargainings. Everyone else, despite the rain coming down on us in torrents, had something to say all the time about the distress of others, but not one of those three uttered a syllable on it all day.

ALFRED G. JONES.

Miscellaneous.

EXPLOSION ON THE RIVER.

A boiler explosion occurred on the river on Saturday afternoon at about a quarter past 6 o'clock, and was attended with lamentable loss of life, during the trial trip of a steam launch called the *Chi-chuan* or “Benevolent Streams.” Some time ago a mandarin from Hangchow wanted a steam launch built and he invited a Chinese firm to supply his want. The price he was willing to pay was considered by the native firm he applied to too low and they told him that a launch of the size he required could not be made properly for the money. The mandarin went elsewhere, and finally bargained with Dong Mow, who carried on the business of blacksmith and copper smith in a lane opposite Hunt's Wharf, to build and engine the boat for Tls. 2,800. The launch was 55 feet long and the boiler had been built some time ago by a Chinese firm on the Soochow Creek for another launch, but as it would not keep steam, it had been rejected. According to a remark made after the accident by the surviving fireman the boiler was intended to carry 160 pounds of steam. How far this is correct, we are not in a position to state, because this fireman was suffering from severe fright at the time, and was laughing and swearing by turns.

The boat was nearly ready on Saturday morning and apparently only wanted a steam gauge to complete the engine department, but the builder declined to purchase a good gauge as it was considered too expensive, and it is believed that he bought a second-hand one somewhere, and consequently it could not be relied upon, though no one can say for certain that this was actually the case, because all those who knew anything about it are dead. The launch started on a trial trip on Saturday afternoon, and there were on board eight men connected with Dong Mow's, that is the master of the shop, his wife's younger brother, and six workmen and boys. There were a Weiyan representing the owner of the boat, with two of his Hangchow friends, one engineer and two firemen, a tailor who made the cushions for the launch, and a number of guests, making in all somewhere about thirty people on board at the time of the accident. The launch steamed up to Kin-lee-yuen without accident, and on the down trip three of the workmen went on shore in a sampan, and

landed at the Foochow Road jetty. The launch proceeded down the river against the flood tide and passed between the *Fungshun*, which was moored to the Old Dock Buoy, and the *Kuling*. A number of guests in long robes showing that they belonged to the better class were sitting in the bow of the launch while a fireman who had been overcome with the heat, had come up on deck and was sitting aft. Suddenly a dull thud was heard by people on shore and afloat in the vicinity and then a volume of steam shot up, while high above it rose a confused mass in the shape of an inverted cone, of wood and iron, prominent among it being the body of a Chinaman which rose as high as the *Fungshun's* mast, and a large piece of the launch's boiler, for the latter had exploded.

The concussion was felt severely on board the steamers alongside the *Associated Wharves*, and on board the *Receiving Ship Yuen Fuh*. In one vessel, the officers were at dinner and they rushed on deck under the impression that some vessel had run into them, so violent was the concussion. The explosion was witnessed by many people and those who could, hastened to the scene to render assistance. One eye-witness says that only four or five people came to the surface and they were rescued. The Chief Officer of the *Fungshun* jumped into a sampan and saved the fireman who had been sitting aft. This man was in a great rage with the engineer because he said the latter had carried too much steam. He has since stated that he expostulated with the engineer but the latter told him to mind his own business. The other men who were picked up in the water were taken to the Hospitals. One was not much hurt but two others were fearfully scalded, one of them being the Weiyan. Another was a brass fitter, and he is burnt all over the body, and now lies in St. Luke's Hospital. How many really were on board at the time, it is impossible to tell, but ten bodies have been recovered. Among these dead or missing are Dong Mow, the builder, and six men belonging to Dong Mow's shop, also the engineer and one fireman, and the tailor, making ten persons. Nine of the bodies which were recovered were taken to a piece of ground in Li Hongkew, nearly opposite the Filature and they were all fearfully scalded, the clothing being almost wholly torn off, while there were wounds on some of them.

It is supposed that at the time of the accident those on board were trying to pass a cargo-boat tug going in the same direction.

Of course, after the explosion, there was a great deal of wreckage floating about and sampanmen and cargo-boatmen eagerly busied themselves picking up pieces of the wreck. One piece of the launch measuring some twenty eight feet long is now at the Hongkew Station. Two men are at the Shantung Road Hospital, and one of them is severely scalded, while the other has a few injuries about head. The man that Mr. Frahm, Chief Officer of the *Fungshun*, dragged into his boat, had been supported in the water by Mr. F. Hanisch; till Mr. Frahm arrived on the scene. One gentleman had heard the explosion, and looking out of his window, saw a piece of the boiler in the air. One of the men saved had an iron rod through the sole of his boot, but beyond a shaking and a few slight cuts, he was not hurt.

Most of the bodies recovered have been coffined and taken away. The body of the tailor, we are told, exhibited no marks of injury. According to native report some twelve people are still missing.

Since the above was written the body of another victim by the explosion of a launch on Saturday was found in the Hongkew Creek Monday morning. With regard to the boiler we learn that it had begun

examined by a foreign firm some time ago, and pronounced unsafe.

A foreigner reports having passed a dead body floating in the river in the vicinity of Farnham's lower Dock. This may be another of the victims of the explosion on Saturday.

CHINESE CHARACTERISTICS.

THE ABSENCE OF ALTRUISM.

Altruism, which has of late become a very popular term in Western lands, is defined as 'regard for others, both natural and moral; devotion to the interests of others; unselfishness; opposed to egoism.' The Confucian classics contain several explicit recognitions of the principle, that what one does not wish done to himself, he should not do to others. This is the golden rule in its negative form, and is one of the high-water marks of Chinese morality. The practice of the Chinese, like that of other people, does not come up to their theoretical standard. What that practice is, and how far it fails to conform to those standards, can only be ascertained by a wide survey of their social life. However wide such a survey may be, it is always open to the objection that it is not wide enough, for there can be no generalisation that takes account of more than an infinitesimal part of even the known facts; and in regard to the social life of the Chinese there is much which is not known at all, and much more which is known imperfectly. As this is one of the most important and likewise one of the last characteristics of the Chinese, to which we wish to draw attention, we must bespeak the reader's considerate attention, once again assuring him that the views presented have not been suddenly reached, but are the results of the slow accumulation of evidence too strong and too varied to be ignored or resisted. It must ever be borne in mind that the population of China is dense. The disasters of flood and famine are of periodical occurrence in almost all parts of the empire. The Chinese desire for posterity is so overmastering a passion, that circumstances which ought to operate as an effectual check upon population, and which in many other countries would do so, appear to be in China relatively inefficient for that purpose. The very poorest people continue to marry their children at an early age and these children bring up large families, just as if there were any provision for their maintenance. The result of these and other causes is, that a large proportion of the population lives in the most literal sense from hand to mouth. This may be said to be the universal condition of day labourers, and it is a condition from which there appears to be no possibility of escape. No foreigner can long deal with the ordinary Chinese whom he everywhere meets, without at once becoming aware of the fact that hardly any one has any ready money. The moment that anything whatever is to be done, the first demand is for cash, that those who are to do it may get something to eat, the presumption being that as yet they have had nothing. It is often very hard even for well-to-do people to raise the most moderate sums of money, when it suddenly becomes necessary to do so. There is a most significant expression commonly employed on such occasions, which speaks of a man who is obliged to collect a sum with which to prosecute a law-suit, to arrange for a funeral, and the like, as 'putting through a famine,' that is, acting like a starving person, in the urgency and persistency of his demands for help. None but those who are well off ever expect to be able to manage affairs of this sort without assistance. Side by side with this chronic need of money, is the correlative fact that the great mass of the people with whom foreigners come into contact, ap-

pear to be more or less deeply in debt. The universal necessity for borrowing money is balanced by the universal necessity for lending it. Considering the great and constant risks involved, it is amazing with what facility money is borrowed and lent, by all classes of people. This is due in part to the absence of those forms of investment, such as savings banks which in occidental lands now bring the possibility of reasonably safe deposit within the reach of the poorest people. But the promiscuous loaning of money is accompanied by a condition to which reference has been already made, in speaking of the lack of mutual confidence, to wit the high rate of interest. While three per cent. a month, or even more, is a common rate, in special cases and for peculiar exigencies the charge is much higher, rising it is said in some instances to the ruinous extortion of one per cent. a day. Hopeless poverty is the most prominent fact in the Chinese Empire, and the bearing of this fact upon the relations of the people to one another must be evident to the most careless observer. People who have no visible means of support, or no means which are at all adequate, and who have no idea where their next meal is to come from, are not in any part of the planet distinguished for their 'altruism.' The result of the pressure for the means of subsistence, and of the habits which this pressure cultivates and fixes, even after the immediate demand is no longer urgent, is to bring life down to a hard materialistic basis, in which money and food are the prominent facts. Money and food are in fact the two foci of the Chinese ellipse, and it is about them as centres that the whole social life of the people revolves. In speaking of filial piety among the Chinese, we have endeavoured to do justice to the strong moral convictions of the people in general as to the duty of proper treatment of the aged. Perhaps there is no other subject to which the national conscience so quickly and so uniformly responds. Yet whoever has the opportunity of intimate acquaintance with the inner aspects of Chinese social life, is well aware that it is not uncommon to find parents who are insufficiently provided with food. The writer is personally acquainted with several such, and the facts are certified not only by the affirmation of the old people themselves, but by the general consensus of the neighbours who are in all cases thoroughly familiar with the particulars. Cases of harsh treatment of parents, even to the extent of beating them can be heard of by careful and judicious enquiry, but they are certainly not very common, and in such cases the sentiment of the family, the clan, and the village is always against the offenders, although they sometimes escape punishment. In the Hsien district where the writer lives, there have been two instances of this sort within recent years. In one of them, a man after beating his own mother, took a gun and shot at her, but was compelled by public opinion to run away from home. He subsequently returned, made an apology through an uncle, and he and his mother are still living together and since then he has never once tried to kill her! In another village but a few miles distant from this one a wealthy man not many years ago actually killed his father with an axe, because he was ashamed of the old man's poverty-stricken appearance! In this case the guilty son was sent to the provincial capital for trial and was executed by the slicing process. On the other hand, in the same town with the man who shot at his mother, lives a dumb man, whose zeal in caring for his aged mother has long since attracted public notice; and by means of a representation of the local magistrate, the dumb man has been honoured by the hanging of a lacquered tablet over his humble door, certifying to his virtues. In the village where these lines are written, lives an old lady seventy-two years of age, who has been for almost a generation a refugee from her

home. She is entirely blind, and has been so for many years, and yet she contrives to cook, make her own trifling purchases, spin thread, which she sells at the markets, and laboriously gather fuel a straw at a time, wherever she can find it. It is impossible even for a Chinese to live in a condition of greater 'bitterness' than this old woman, whose existence has only been prolonged by the kindness of some of her neighbours. Yet the object of this kindness has two sons living, who at last accounts were perfectly aware of their mother's condition, in which they have never taken the smallest interest and with whom they have not even communicated, for more than twenty years. There is a tradition of an old lady who remarked of the doctrine of total depravity, that it is a very good one, "if it is only lived up to." The same observation might be made with justice on the Chinese theory of filial piety.

It was a saying of Geo. D. Prentice, a distinguished Kentucky editor, that man was the principal object in creation, woman being merely "a side issue." The phrase is a literal expression of the position of a wife in a Chinese family. The object had in view in matrimony by the family of the girl is to get rid of supporting her. The object on the part of the husband's family is to propagate that family. These objects are not in themselves open to criticism, except on the ground of a too complete occupation of the field of human motives. But in China no one indulges in any illusions on the subject. That which is true of marriages of those in the ordinary walks of life, is pre-eminently true of the poorer classes. It is a common observation in regard to a widow who has re-married, that "now she will not starve." It is a popular proverb that a second husband and a second wife are husband and wife only as long as there is anything to eat; when the food supply fails, each shifts for him or herself. In times of famine relief, cases have often been observed where the husband simply abandons the wife and the children, leaving them to pick up a wretched subsistence, or to starve. In many instances daughters-in-law were sent back to their mothers' family to be supported or starved as the event might be. 'She is your daughter—take care of her yourself.' In other cases where special food was given by distributors of famine relief to women who were nursing small infants, it was sometimes found that this allowance had been taken from the women, and devoured by the men, although these instances were probably exceptional. While it would be obviously unfair to judge a people only by the phenomena of such years as those of great famine, there is an important sense in which such occasions are a species of touchstone by which the underlying principles of social life may be ascertained with more accuracy and certainty than on ordinary occasions. The sale of wives and of children in China is a practice not confined to years of peculiar distress, but during those years it is carried on to an extent which throws all ordinary transactions of this nature into insignificance. It is perfectly well known to those acquainted with the facts, that during the early part of the current year, in many districts stricken with a famine only less grievous than those of eleven and twelve years ago, the sale of women and children was conducted as openly as that of mules and donkeys, the only essential difference being that the former were not driven to market. During the great famine of 1878, which extended over nearly all parts of the three most northern provinces, as well as further south, so great a traffic sprang up in women and girls who were exported to the central provinces, that in some places it was difficult to hire a cart, as they had all been engaged in the transportation of the newly purchased females to the regions where they were to be

disposed of. These transactions must not be confounded with the trade in girls which exists in Singapore and Hongkong and elsewhere, and which it is so difficult for British officers to detect and break up. In the cases to which reference is now made, young women were taken from a region where they were in a condition of starvation, and where the population was too redundant, to a region which had been depopulated by the T'ai-p'ing rebels, and where for many years wives had been hard to procure. It is one of the most melancholy features of this strange state of affairs, that the enforced sales of members of Chinese families to distant provinces was probably the best thing for all parties, and perhaps the only way in which the lives both of those who were sold as well as the lives of those who sold them, could be preserved.

In speaking of the Chinese theory and practice of filial piety, references have been made to that singular perversion of human nature, by which the birth of one half of the children of China is regarded by their parents as a calamity. Daughters in China are from the beginning of their existence more or less unwelcome. This fact has a most important bearing on their whole subsequent career, and furnishes many significant illustrations of the absence of altruism. The details of customs in various localities differ widely, so that generalisations here as elsewhere are precarious, but the principles are doubtless substantially the same. The age at which marriages take place in China is very much earlier than that in Western lands, though we have never heard of anything in China at all comparable to the terrible child-marriages of India. But in some regions, it is the fashion to marry the boys at the age of from fifteen to twenty or even younger, while the girls to whom they are married are several years their seniors. No one will give any explanation of this eccentricity, unless it be that contained in a popular proverb about the man who buys a donkey and rides on its neck instead of close to the tail, in Chinese fashion—namely, that 'he likes that way best.' But in the case of adult brides yoked to adolescent bridegrooms, the reasons for the practice are easy to be understood, when once ascertained. It is the family of the boy, that 'holds up its head,' and that of the girl must take such terms as it can get. A daughter-in-law is regarded as a servant for the whole family, which is precisely her position, and in getting a servant, it is obviously desirable to get one who is strong and well grown, and who has already been taught the domestic accomplishment of cooking, sewing, and whatever industries may be the means of livelihood in that particular region, rather than a child who has little strength or capacity. Thus we have known of a case where a buxom young woman of twenty was married to a slip of a boy literally only half her age, and in the early years of their wedded life she had the pleasure of nursing him through the small-pox, which is considered as a disease of infancy! Mothers and daughters who pass their days in the narrow confinement of a Chinese court, under the conditions of Chinese life, are not likely to lack topics of disagreement, in which abusive language is indulged in with a freedom which the unconstraint of every-day life tends to promote. It is a popular saying, full of significance to those who know Chinese homes, that a mother cannot by reviling her own daughter make her cease to be her own daughter! When a daughter is once married, she is regarded as having no more relations with her family, than those which are inseparable from community of origin. There is a deep-seated reason for omitting daughters from all family registers. *She is no longer our daughter, but the daughter-in-law of some one else.* Human nature will assert itself, in requiring visits to the

mother's home, at more or less frequent intervals, according to the local usage. In some districts these visits are very numerous and very prolonged, while in others the custom seems to be to make them as few as possible, and liable to almost complete suspension for long periods in case of a death in the family. But whatever the details of usage, the principle holds good, that the daughter-in-law belongs to the family of which she has become a part. When she goes to her mother's home, she goes on a strictly business basis. She takes with her it may be a quantity of sewing for her husband's family, which the wife's family must help her get through with. She is accompanied on each of these visits by as many of her children as possible, both to have her take care of them, and to have them out of the way when she is not at hand to look after them, and most especially to have them fed at the expense of the family of the maternal grandmother for as long a time as possible. In regions where visits of this sort are frequent, and where there are many daughters in a family, their constant raids on the old home are a source of perpetual terror to the whole family, and a serious tax on the common resources. For this reason these visits are often discouraged by the father and the brothers, while secretly favoured by the mothers. But as local custom fixes for them certain epochs, such as a definite date after the New Year, special feast days, etc., the visits cannot be interdicted. A weary woman whose occupation of making meat dumplings for sale at the daily markets always obliged her to rise long before daylight, and who was not infrequently visited by her married daughters with their troops of little ones, some of whom spent the night in tumbling over their poor grandmother (because their mothers 'could not take care of so many'), complained to the writer of the grievous nature of the burden. To the natural inquiry why she did not send them home when they became so troublesome, she remarked with evident sincerity, "*I can't succeed in pushing them out!*" When the daughter-in-law returns to her mother-in-law it is true of her, as the adage says of a thief, that she never comes back empty-handed. She must take a present of some sort for her mother-in-law, generally food. Neglect of this established rite, or inability to comply with it, will soon result in dramatic scenes. If the daughter is married into a family which is poor, or which has become so, and if she has brothers who are married, she will find that her visits to her mother, are, in the language of the physicians, 'contra-indicated.' There is war between the daughters-in-law of a family, and the married sisters of the same family, like that between the Philistines and the children of Israel, each regarding the territory as peculiarly its own, and the other party as interlopers. If the daughters-in-law are strong enough to do so, they will, like the Philistines, levy a tax upon the enemy whom they cannot altogether exterminate or drive out. A woman with whom the writer has long been acquainted informed him not long ago that for a year and a half she had been forbidden by the wives of her brothers from visiting her aged mother, who was blind and unable to travel the two or three miles necessary to go to see her daughter! The reason for this embargo was the deep poverty of the daughter, who was unable to bring a present when she came, albeit she should have taken a present back with her when she returned to her mother-in-law. In order to make the present which will render her visits to her mother's family agreeable all round, the daughter-in-law is sometimes obliged to steal something from the family of the mother-in-law. When this is discovered, it will result in an 'unpleasantness.' If it is not specifically discovered, it is suspected, and is called by the generic name of 'leak-at-the-bottom,' in allusion to the difficulty

of detection, and to the seriousness of its results if continued. It is a proverb that no family can stand the strain of a continued 'bottom-leak.' One of the facetiae of the Chinese represents two old women as meeting after a long separation, and making inquiries as to each other's families. 'How is your son's business?' says one, 'and what kind of a daughter-in-law have you?' 'My son's business is fairly good,' was the reply, 'but the daughter-in-law is bad—she steals from us to give to her mother.' 'And your married daughter, how is it with her?' 'Ah!' was the reply, '*If it were not for the help we get from her, we should not be able to get on at all!*' In speaking of the absence of sympathy, reference was made to the bitter lot of Chinese concubines. The term used to denote the relation between wives and concubines, is that most expressive phrase, 'sipping vinegar.' This is proverbially a 'thing to be avoided,' and from this association, that phrase has come to be employed as a euphemism for vinegar, as when a waiter enquires of a guest at an inn what he wishes for his meal, he asks, "Do you want the 'thing-to-be-avoided'?" But the certainty of trouble in the family is by no means confined to the occasions when principal and secondary wives are to be found living in the same establishment. The Chinese believe that the graves of successive wives should be placed at a due distance from each other, until their common husband has died, when the bodies are to be taken up, and may be placed on each side of him. The theory is that 'e'en in their ashes live their wonted fires,' and that the ghosts of wives so buried as to be adjacent to one another, with no intervening husband as peace-maker, would be certain to maintain a war which would render the lives of surviving members of the family scarcely worth living. At first sight this may appear merely a curious superstition, with no especial bearing on practical affairs, but it is in reality a most serious matter, and one which enters into the marrow of one's existence.

The writer is acquainted with a Chinese who ignored this superstition, and buried his second wife alongside the first. The neighbours of the mother of the second wife, filled her ears with the prophecies of the most deadly disaster, if this state of things were to be tolerated. She and her friends came to the village where the husband of the deceased woman lived, expostulated, threatened and besought him by turns, to move the corpse of his late wife, away from the fury of the former one. They assured him that his late wife's ghost was constantly seen in her native village, and that trouble was most imminent. Irritated by their clamour, and being naturally of an obstinate disposition, the husband refused to comply with their request, but at last consented to accompany them to their village, and witness the alleged outbreak of the spirit, which he promised to quell. He remained two days, during which time all was perfectly quiet, but he had not gone a quarter of a mile on his way home, than he was sent after in haste, on the alleged ground that his late wife's ghost had broken loose again. As no external evidence was offered to him of the supposed trouble, he positively refused to move the body, and the matter was allowed to drop. It has been already remarked elsewhere that the beating of Chinese wives by their husbands is regarded as a matter of course. One of the first questions which is asked of foreign ladies, by the Chinese women with whom they become well acquainted, is, "Does he not beat you?" The replies are generally received with incredulity. On one occasion when these enquiries had been made and answered as usual, none of the Chinese women present could boast of not having been beaten, except the old grandmother who was more than eighty years of age. Her recipe was of the simplest description, but for a Chinese woman

most difficult, to wit to hold her tongue. There are probably very few Chinese women to whom this method ever occurred, or who would be capable of adopting it if it had occurred to them. "When you are young, and just married," said the old lady, "your husband does not like to beat you. When you get older and have a troop of children, if he beats you they all come out shrieking and making such a clamour that he dislikes to face it. And when you are old, he does not care to begin for the first time, and there you are, never having been beaten all your life!" Unfortunately this sound domestic philosophy is for the most part theoretical. Knowing that one of the sons of this old lady had a wife who was a thorn in the flesh, the writer once enquired a little into their matrimonial relations, and ascertained what was indeed a matter of general notoriety among the inhabitants of the large town in which they lived, that these relations were at times what the diplomatists term 'strained.' The husband was a man of some education, less than forty years of age, his wife a woman rather taller than himself, and not unpleasing in appearance. There was never anything in their demeanour to indicate that they were in any respect different from any of their neighbours, as indeed they were not. This semi-literary man informed us that he had beaten his wife times without number. Sometimes he had used a club two feet long and an inch or two in thickness, made of a particularly hard wood. Sometimes he had used an ash-scraper, which happened to be the most convenient weapon. Once he beat her until his arm was tired, and he was all of a tremble. During all this time, she was shrieking, "Mother, Mother!" but the moment he stopped, she began reviling him, on which he resumed the beating, and she resumed her invocations to her 'Niang.' On one of these occasions she had been pregnant for four or five months. Two days after, she jumped into a deep well, but was hauled out by a rope. The child lived, strange to say, but was smothered at the age of one month, by being lain upon. On another occasion she hung herself with her girdle, which broke, leaving her in a heap on the ground from which she refused to rise. At another time, she ate two handfuls of a poisonous rouge-powder, but nothing came of it! M. Huc tells a story, which to many of his readers must have seemed an idle tale, of a Chinese husband who had a wife with whom he had lived happily for two years. But having conceived the idea that people were laughing at him, because he had never beaten his wife, he determined to make a beginning in such a way as to impress every spectator, and accordingly, though he had no fault to find with her, he beat his wife to such an extent that she could neither move nor speak, and although her husband was kind enough to admit that he was in error, she died two days afterwards in terrible convulsions. In the chapter on the absence of sympathy, reference was made to the daughter of a woman employed as a nurse in a foreign family, the husband of which daughter had abused her severely. Within the short time since that account was written, this young woman has again fallen into deep trouble. Her husband came into the house one day when she was engaged in some domestic occupation and without any anger in his manner told her to take off her clothes. She dared not refuse, and he then cruelly beat her with a thorny stick, till the blood ran. She was more terrified by this experience than by all that had gone before, on account of the deliberate malice, and the absence of any cause. A man who will beat his wife till she streams with blood, while he is a careful not to injure her garments with the thorns, is not unlikely to beat her because he dreads the ridicule of the neighbours. Within the past few days word has been brought to the writer that

the wife of a younger brother of a man living on the premises has swallowed opium, and thus committed suicide. Why did she do so? Because her husband beat her. And why did her husband beat her? Because she had irritated the neighbours over the wall by reviling them. And why did she revile her neighbours? Because they had her property in their charge, and she took it for granted that they would not give it up, and revenged herself in advance by reviling them. To be more explicit; the eggs laid by domestic fowls are often considered by the women of the family as their perquisites. In this instance a hen had flown over the neighbours' wall, and had been heard to cackle, implying that the egg had been laid over there. No one appears to have even contemplated the possibility that the egg could be regained. The woman accordingly reviled the neighbours, with consequences already described. The value of the egg, at current rates, was three cash.

As we have noticed in speaking of filial piety, it is a constituent part of the theory that the younger are relatively of little account. They are valued principally for what they may become, and not for what they are. Thus the practice of most Western lands is in China reversed. The youngest of three travellers is proverbially made to take the brunt of all hardships. The youngest servant is uniformly the common drudge of the rest. In the grinding poverty of the mass of the people, it is not strange that the spirit even of a Chinese boy often rebels against the sharp limitations to which he finds himself pinned, and that he not infrequently runs away. That he almost invariably steers for some relative or friend, has been already remarked in speaking of parasitism. But the boy who has made up his mind to go will seldom fail to find some slight thread by which he may attach himself to some one else. The causes for this behaviour on the part of boys, are various, but so far as we have observed, the harsh treatment of others is by far the most common. In a country like China, the poor have no time to be sick. Ailments of women and children are apt to be treated by the men of the family as of no consequence, and are constantly allowed to run into incurable maladies, because there was no time to attend to them, or because the man 'could not afford it.' In one case with which we happened to be acquainted of harsh treatment by a father, the lad fled several hundred miles, to Tientsin, whence he returned, after a month's absence, for the truly amazing reason that he was unable to endure the smells of that fragrant metropolis! In another case, a boy recently recovered from a run of typhus fever, being possessed by the hearty appetite common to such patients, and finding the coarse black bread of the family fare hard eating, went to a local market, and indulged in the luxury of expending cash to the value of about twenty cents. For this he was severely reproved by his father, upon which the lad ran away to Manchuria, an unfailing resort of lads all over the north-eastern provinces, and was never heard of again.

Enough has already been said to make it apparent that there is in most Chinese homes abundant material for domestic conflagrations, if it is duly fanned, and unfortunately there is seldom any permanent lack of fanning. The Chinese are a most loquacious race, and even the dullest of them can become eloquent in defence of his rights, real or supposed. A woman in an American court begged the judge to grant her a divorce, on the ground that she had been married seventeen years, and that all that time her husband had "jawed constant." Whether his meals were or were not ready, whether his buttons were or were not sewed on, whatever the conditions, he "jawed constant." This grave criticism is applicable to many homes

in 'nominally Christian lands,' but to vastly more in China. Indeed the precise observation of the woman just quoted was made in the writer's hearing, concerning an acquaintance, who made the life of his daughter-in-law a burden. The occasions for this unceasing 'jaw' are as numerous as the objects and interests with which human beings have to do. Money, food, clothes, children and their squabbles, a chicken, a dog, anything or nothing, will serve as the first loop on which will be knit a complicated tangle of quarrel, which will not go far without words of reviling which increase the fury of the disputants in a ten-fold ratio. In speaking of the 'Social Typhoons' of Chinese life, these quarrels have been already fully described, and need only be mentioned here, in order to illustrate the manner in which the absence of altruism acts in the details of every-day life. Such quarrels, in which the principals lose all control of themselves, shriek out words of reviling abuse at the highest possible pitch, and jump up and down in paroxysms of fury after the manner of a periodical geyser, are yet not inconsistent with that 'peaceableness' which we have seen to be a distinctive Chinese trait. The water that boils over with rapidity when the pressure of the atmosphere is abnormally low, will likewise freeze quickly under a sudden lowering of the temperature. It is the same water, but subject to varying conditions. One of the most enigmatical characters in the Chinese language is that which is used to denote the rise of passion, and which Sir Thomas Wade euphemistically translated 'wrath-matter.' The word *ch'i* is a most important one in all kinds of Chinese philosophy and in practical life. '*Ch'i*' is generated when a man becomes very angry, and the Chinese believe that there is some deadly connection between this developed '*wrath-matter*' and the human system generally, so that a violent passion is constantly named as the exciting cause of all varieties of diseases and ailments, such as blindness, failure of the heart, &c. It is most fortunate for the Chinese that they have not the habit of carrying weapons about them, for if they had revolvers, or swords like the former *samurai* class of Japan, it would not be possible to predict the amount of mischief which the daily evolution of *ch'i* would produce. When a man or a woman is once seized of the idea that he has been deeply wronged, there is no power on earth which can prevent the sudden and often utterly ungovernable development of a certain amount of *ch'i*, or rather of a very uncertain amount of it. We have heard of a man who applied for baptism to an old and experienced missionary, and was very properly refused, whereupon he got a knife and threatened to attack the missionary to prove his claim to the rite of initiation by an ordeal of battle. Happily this method of taking the kingdom of heaven by violence, does not commend itself to most noviciates, but the underlying principle is one that is constantly acted upon in all varieties of Chinese social life. An old woman who will not take 'no' for an answer, asks for financial assistance, and throws herself on the ground in front of your carter's mules. If she is run over, so much the better for her, for she is thus reasonably sure of a support for an indefinite period. An old vixen living in the same village as the writer, was constantly threatening to commit suicide, but though all her neighbours were willing to lend their aid, she never seemed to accomplish her purpose. At last she threw herself into one of the village mudholes with intent to drown, but found to her disgust that the water was only up to her neck. She lacked that versatility of invention which would have enabled her to put her head under water and hold it there, but contented herself with reviling the whole village at the top of her voice for her *contumelias*. The next time she was

more successful. If a wrong has been committed for which there is no legal redress, such as abuse of a married daughter beyond the point which custom warrants, a party of the injured friends will visit the house of the mother-in-law, and if they are resisted will engage in a pitched battle. If they are not resisted, and the offending persons have fled, the assailants will proceed to smash all the crockery in the house, the mirrors, the water-jars, and whatever else is frangible, and having thus allowed their *ch'i* to escape, they depart. If their coming is known in advance, the very first step is to remove all these articles to the house of some neighbour. One of the Chinese newspapers recently mentioned a case which occurred in Peking, where a man had arranged for a wedding with a beautiful woman, who turned out to be "an ugly bald-headed, and elderly woman." The disappointed bridegroom became greatly enraged, struck the go-betweens, *reviled the whole company*, and smashed the bride's wedding outfit. Any Chinese would have acted in the same way, if he was in such relations to his environment, that he dared to do so.* It is after the preliminary paroxysms of *ch'i* have had opportunity to subside, that the work of the 'peace-talker'—that useful factor in Chinese social life—is accomplished. Sometimes these most essential individuals are so deeply impressed with the necessity of peace, that even when the matter is not one which concerns them personally, they are willing to go from one to the other making *k'o-t'ous*, now to this side, and now to that, in the interests of harmony.

Chinese moral maxims, the common 'virtue books' and the 'Sacred Edicts' of the emperors abound in exhortations to 'forbearance', a virtue which is rightly affirmed to be superior to that of readiness to forgive. There is a great deal of this latent forbearance among the Chinese, as there has need to be, to preserve society from ruin. The strongest case of which we have heard may serve as a type. A former employé of a wealthy man fell into a rage, vented all his superfluous *ch'i* in the street in front of the house, procured a large knife, and with violent threats stuck it into the outer door of the establishment, at the same time reviling everyone therein in the most outrageous manner. The master of the house was prudent enough to allow this fit of fury to wear itself out, after which the baffled servant went off and got drunk, and during that night died in front of the rich man's door. Under ordinary circumstances this might have been made use of as a most serious handle with which to extort money from the rich man, but under the circumstances, this was out of the question, and the moral was plain to all—Forbearance is a virtue sure to be rewarded.

We have just remarked that in Chinese life, anything whatever may serve as the cause of a quarrel, or in the apt metaphorical expression of the people, there is no dipper that does not at times strike the edge of the cooking-boiler. The writer once happened to see in a neighbouring village an abandoned vineyard, and the idea occurred that as these vines were wholly neglected and useless, they might be bought at a cheap rate, and transferred to a situation where they would be more appreciated. A native of the village who was in the writer's employ, who had a turn for intricate diplomacy, was instructed to open negotiations. This he accomplished

* It is reported in Peking that the present Emperor was not pleased with the choice of a wife which was made for him. He had been so often crossed in his wishes by the Empress Dowager, that any selection which was made by her would have been distasteful. It is also whispered that scenes occurred in the Palace, not remotely unlike those mentioned as taking place at the wedding of one of his subjects. 'When those above act, those below will imitate'.

with skill, and in due time the vines were delivered. But no transaction of this sort is finished in China, until one has seen the end of it, and no one can ever tell when that will be. The field turned out to be the property of several brothers with one of whom the bargain had been made. One of the other brothers soon made the discovery that it was a species of sacrilege to part with grape-vines which had been originally planted by a now deceased grandfather. Each of the brothers, who had not been principals, took the same view of the matter, the truth being that in the division of the spoils, they had been insufficiently considered. The only way to adjust the matter was for the agent who made the original proposal, to procure additional funds, which he divided among the various brothers, giving to each his share privately and as if it were the only one! In cases of this sort, the middleman occupies a position which cannot be enviable. He will not infrequently be reviled, simply for not helping on a bargain in which there was to have been the most outrageous fraud. This is specially likely to be the case where foreigners are concerned, for the heaviest profits are expected. Foreigners themselves are often reviled behind their backs, especially if they do not speak Chinese, because they have not spent as much money as the cupidity of inn-keepers and others had led them to expect. In such cases, the servants of the foreigner have to bear the brunt of the abuse. To a Chinese it seems unaccountable that foreigners take it so coolly when they have been informed that they have been reviled. "What of it?" is the natural reply for an Anglo Saxon. "I can stand it if he can." But to a Chinese the man who is reviled and who feels no pain, is a kind of monstrosity, lost to self-respect. Foreign indifference to such abuse is generally laid to gross incapacity and hopeless stupidity, and the foreigner's unwillingness to have a tempestuous row over every trifle, is set down to his utter ignorance of 'propriety'! How easy it is for the poor foreigner both to misunderstand and to be misunderstood, is well illustrated in the experience of a friend of the writer, who visited a Chinese bank with the proprietors of which he was on good terms, and in the neighbourhood of which there had recently been a destructive conflagration. The foreigner congratulated the banker that the fire had not come any nearer to his establishment. On this the person addressed grew at once embarrassed and then angry, exclaiming, 'What sort of talk is this? This is not a proper kind of talk!' It was not till some time afterwards, that the discovery was made, that the point of the offence against good manners lay in the implied hint that if the fire had come too near, it might have burned the cash-shop, which would have been most unlucky, and the very contemplation of which, albeit in congratulatory language, was therefore taboo!

Whenever social storms prove incapable of adjustment by the ordinary processes, in other words when there is such a preponderance of *ch'i* that it cannot be dispersed without an explosion, there is the beginning of a law-suit, a term in China of fateful significance. The same blind rage which leads a person to lose all control of himself in a quarrel, leads him after the first stages of the outbreak have passed, to determine to take the offender before a magistrate, in order 'to have the law on him.' This proceeding in Western lands is generally injudicious, but in China it is sheer madness. There is sound sense in the proverb which praises the man who will suffer himself to be imposed upon to the death, before he will go to law, which will often be worse than death. We smile at the fury of the immigrant whose dog had been shot by a neighbour, and who was remonstrated with by a friend when the resolution to go to law was declared.

"What was the value of the dog?" "Ze dog vas vort nottings, but since he vas so mean as to kill him, he shall pay ze full value of him." In an Occidental land such a suit would be dismissed with costs, and there it would end. But in China, it might go on to the ruin of both parties, and be a cause of feud for generations yet to come. The 'Sacred Edict' contains a great deal of wise advice about the folly of going to law over trifles, wasting time, money and strength, and engendering enmities, but good advice is one of the commodities of which the Chinese are never destitute, and which has very little effect on actual life. We have known a dispute between a rustic customer and a pawnshop, as to a few bad cash, the total value of which did not amount to five cents, to be followed by a reviling match, a fight, an organised attack on the pawnshop by a band of villagers, the dispatch of troops by the district magistrate to restore order, the interruption of the business of the shop for half a month, and a ruinous law-suit in which the rustic was of course defeated, severely punished for his fatuous attempt to get his rights, and for indulging his *ch'i* at the expense of a powerful corporation. In another instance a trifling dispute between some children about the right to a few dates, led to a fight and a law-suit which dragged on its destructive way, until one of the witnesses died in the *yamen*, resulting in fresh suits and ultimate ruin to all parties. In another case, a chance word from one woman to another on the dirty appearance of a child which one of them was carrying, was sufficient to serve as a slow-match for a great explosion which came near terminating as fatally as the last case, but which was adjusted in one of its apparently hopeless stages, by some of the mysterious means for which the Chinese display such talent. These examples are constantly duplicated in every-day life, as the reader may easily satisfy himself by a little enquiry. It is only by attentive consideration of these phenomena that one comes to appreciate the significance of the familiar mottoes so often to be seen over door-ways, "Harmony is precious," "Peace and tranquillity are worth thousands of gold."

(To be continued.)

THE FINANCIAL FOCUS OF THE FAR EAST.

THE MARVELLOUS PROGRESS OF HONGKONG FROM A FEW FISHERMEN'S HUTS TO FORTY MILLIONS OF DOLLARS.

(By arrangement with the writer.)

The Hongkong Stock Exchange, if people at home only knew of it, would be regarded as one of the financial wonders of the world. But they do not, and indeed, to begin with, there is no Stock Exchange, properly speaking, in Hongkong. One is being established at this moment. What Exchange there is now, is the gutter. From the bar of the Club to about a hundred yards down the Queen's Road, is the Rialto. But there, all day long, a financial business is done which I doubt if any hundred yards in the world, except the spaces including the London and New York Stock Exchanges and the Paris Bourse, can equal either for volume of money, audacity of speculation, or sensational ups and downs. Everything is done either under the punkahs in the hall of the club or literally in the gutter, and by the most motley crowd of brokers in double-decked hats that the world can show. There are Englishmen, Germans, Anglo-Indians, Chinese from Canton, Armenians from Calcutta, Parsees from Bombay and Jews from Bagdad. And from the princes of finance, who play with millions of dollars, (there are several of them in Hongkong) down to the humblest and last-arrived member of the "black brigade,"

with the physiognomy of Palestine and the accent of Spitalfields, who buys ten shares here and sells ten shares there, all are making money fast. There are practically no bankruptcies in Hongkong. The former live in their little palaces, they entertain like princes, they are as generous as they are prosperous, and the latter kick their heels all day long in the street and the corridors of the Hongkong Hotel. And although to say that all of them make money is not unlike saying that two men live on what they win from each other at cards, still the paradox is a truth. Money in Hongkong seems to have less value than anywhere else, like wheat in Manitoba or petroleum in Pennsylvania. A player at poker the other night dropped a "longchip," value a hundred dollars, under the table. "Maskee," he said in pidgin English, "no matter." "It's fifteen pounds," somebody reminded him; "if you were at home you'd look for it fast enough." "By Jove," he replied, "so I will! I forgot how much it was." And here is an example showing at once all three characteristics I have claimed above for Hongkong finance. A few weeks ago, in the stock of a single mine in the Malay Peninsula, upwards of a million and a half of dollars was paid by Singapore speculators to Hongkong speculators in less than a fortnight, and the same shares were bought back by Hongkong within a month at more than fifty per cent discount. As for ups and downs, here are a few examples taken almost at random. The shares of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company, issued at a hundred dollars, rose immediately to \$195, fell to \$125 within a month, and are to-day quoted at \$200. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares, of \$125 par value, were at one time at 205 per cent. premium; they fell again to 125 per cent. and are to-day back to 200 per cent. The Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company's shares, of \$125 par value, rose from 25 per cent premium to 135 per cent, fell to 26 per cent, and are quoted to-day at 95 per cent. The Punjom and Sunghie Dua Samantan Gold Mining Company (mine at Punjom, in the Malay Peninsula) was floated at \$10 per share, rose at once to \$15, then jumped suddenly to \$80, fell back as suddenly, after considerably over a million dollars had changed hands, to \$25, at which price most of the shares were bought and sold again, and now they are firm at \$35. But perhaps the most sensational of all is the Tongking Coal Mining Company. The shares, which by French law must be registered in Paris, were issued at 500 francs, say \$138; they rose on issue to 60 per cent. premium, then at a jump to 120 per cent., then at another to 220 per cent., and to-day they stand steady at 400 per cent. premium, say \$700, with few or no sellers, in spite of the expense of holding them, as the local banks will not advance a dollar upon mining shares which have not yet paid a dividend. I suppose it would be difficult to match this in the history of recent finance.

Now this state of things is the rule, not the exception, in Hongkong, and it is self-evident that such high prices can only exist and have existed on one condition, namely, that the local companies—including, of course, the enterprises in Borneo, in the Malay Peninsula, in Manila, etc., of which the capital is held in Hongkong—were formed on a sound basis and are doing thoroughly well. Many of these ups and downs are of course the merest gambling, some of them not even honest gambling, as a recent law-suit has shown, and I am sorry to say that much of this is done by young men, earning clerks' salaries, who would find such a course impossible elsewhere. But gambling is inseparable from prosperity, and no gambling could produce the same steady effect as legitimate profit and promise. This is the case with the local companies, but I

fancy very few people have any idea of what the combined capital of these companies amounts to. The total number of companies of all kinds registered in Hongkong is forty-four. Space prevents me from giving a list of these, but I have made one, and the following facts are shown by it. The total capital of Hongkong local companies is no less than \$40,740,000, or £6,250,000 sterling. The average dividend of the local companies which have already been in existence long enough to pay one, is a fraction under 13 per cent. per annum. And their average annual yield to investors at the so-called "inflated" current prices is 6.2 per cent.

New companies are being floated almost every month in Hongkong. As the new lands of the Far East are gradually developed, it is to Hongkong that they look and must look for financial aid. And capital there responds to the right call, as the flash responds to the trigger. For instance, a month ago a new issue of shares of the Hongkong Land Investment Company was made at 50 per cent. premium, \$100 for a \$50 share. The number offered to the public was 13,000. No fewer than 52,000 were applied for. To-day they are quoted at \$145. Of course there are not wanting prophets of evil who foretell an utter collapse of the Hongkong market, as a consequence of what they are pleased to term the "gambling mania" prevalent in the colony. Financiers at home send telegrams to their representatives here, urging caution, and merchants write long homilies to their agents. Yet I have heard that the very merchants and friends both at home and elsewhere in China who are so anxious on the one hand that Hongkong should become a model of Scotch prudence, or are so ready, on the other, to denounce it as a "bucket-shop", are themselves among the quickest and most persistent applicants for shares in new enterprises, with the purely gambling intention of reselling them at the first rise. In the past, shares have been freely allotted with this result: in the future, I understand local promoters intend to be a trifle more particular whose fortunes they make. I must not presume to decide the question whether Hongkong is or is not resting on a financial volcano, but I see no reason to believe it, and many reasons to believe the contrary. And in defence of this opinion I think Hongkong financiers will admit that for a long period no stranger has given the time or attention to the affairs of the colony that I have. For it is not until after you have studied Hongkong that you begin to discover, and that slowly, what a marvellous place it is. Less than fifty years ago, a barren island with a few Chinese fishermen's huts: to-day, a port with 7,000,000 tons of shipping a year; a focus of enterprise with six and a quarter millions sterling of locally registered capital; a coal centre where 50,000 tons are consumed per month; an insurance base where in 1888 premiums were paid by Chinese merchants alone upon a capital value of £21,000,000 sterling (I have this fact upon the best authority); a financial centre for the whole Far East, since Japan, Manila, Singapore, Java, Swatow, Amoy, and Saigon all finance through Hongkong, and from which 6,000,000 rupees is the monthly average remittance to India for opium and yarn. And unless all signs fail the development of the Far East is only beginning. Borneo, the Malay Peninsula, and Siam are all certain to become the scene of enterprise of all kinds within a short time, and the Philippine Islands are making great strides. Any development in any of these places means the increased prosperity of Hongkong. If the coal of Tongking turns out as it seems to promise, and can be sold in Hongkong as cheaply as is reasonably claimed by the promoters of the company, Hongkong will become also a manufacturing centre. And the introduction of railways into China,

which is on the eve of being an accomplished fact, will bring infinite grist to her mill. In fact there is only one thing that can surely bring about the collapse of values in this marvellous island colony, and that is a war in which England should be engaged with a Power represented in the Pacific, while Hongkong still feels herself to be inadequately defended.

The subject of the coming development of the Far East brings me to another matter closely touching Hongkong, and which, although new at present, will soon be prominently before local and London financiers. Namely, the question of increased banking facilities. Of the five banks here, the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, the Chartered Mercantile Bank of India, London and China, the New Oriental Bank Corporation, and the Comptoir d'Escompte, only the first two can be regarded as having afforded important facilities to local finance. The third and fourth mentioned do a comparatively small business. The Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is the divine providence, from a financial point of view, of the Far East. It has been the foundation and mainstay of British prosperity in this part of the world, and its name and fame were never higher than to-day. But the needs of the Far East have been tending to exceed its resources for some time, for the best bank in the world can only give what it has. So too, with the Chartered Bank of India. Its local business here, and business of a very profitable character, has increased several fold during the last five years, but it, too, has all its available funds employed. So to-day, as I am assured on all hands, a constantly increasing amount of legitimate and profitable banking business is being turned away from the doors of both institutions. Therefore, unless Hongkong is to stop where it is—and the record and character of its inhabitants makes that in the highest degree improbable—one of two things must be done. Either the local bank must increase its capital, or a new semi-local bank must be established "to meet legitimate business, with a very large margin to very good people." So certain is this that already the leading Chinese merchants, refused in their applications for banking facilities, are threatening to establish a local Anglo-Chinese bank. The capital for a new local bank could be raised immediately, or a new issue of Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares could be placed on the market at a heavy premium to-morrow. One course or the other is practically certain to be taken, and neither presents any special difficulties. But from the reputation of the directors of the present Bank I do not suppose they will allow a step of this kind to be taken over their heads.

HENRY NORMAN.

ON THE NORTHERN CRUISE.

(FROM A NAVAL CORRESPONDENT.)

We are at present in Hakodadi Harbour, drawn up in two lines. The weather line consists of the *Imperieuse*, *Cordelia*, *Satellite*, *Hyacinth*, *Swift* and *Porpoise*. The lee line contains the *Conquest*, *Leander*, *Wanderer*, and *Swift*.

The *Alacrity*, which only arrived last Saturday, occupies a convenient position between the two lines. Hakodadi is not the place in which 'to spend a happy day.' The weather at this time of the year is, of course, all that could be desired. But, as for the place itself, it reeks of cured fish, and there is hardly anything to be done. To begin with, many of the ships lie, to use a mild exaggeration, 'a day's journey' from the shore. The natural impulse of most of us is to get away from the

ship at the earliest opportunity. Consequently the naval officer faces the stormy elements in an open sailing boat, and gets his shore-going togs uncomfortably wet. But, when he steps out on the landing place, he begins to wonder why he came, and to wish he hadn't. He calculates the time that must elapse before the returning boat leaves the shore, and speculates as to what he can possibly do with himself in the meanwhile. Shooting is forbidden him, and fishing is too far off. There is no club, no billiard room, no bowling alley, no tennis court, no library, and last, but not least, no residents who can take him out of himself by talking of other things than masts and yards. The only Europeans he will meet are his own brother officers, and, then, of course, the talk is bound to be professional. Most of us wish the summer cruise had never been invented. We would rather stew in the heat amid the comforts of civilisation, than enjoy cool weather in the land of nothing-to-do. At the same time it would be only fair to enumerate Hakodadi's few redeeming points. Riding is to be had, not very good, but passable enough. Here, as at Shanghai, you may see the jovial bluejacket careering along the street on the 'fiery untamed,' porting his helm when he wants to go to starboard, knocking down the rising generation, and eventually turning a somersault at the far corner. Hakodadi is probably quite as good a place for Jack as any other. There are plenty of grog-shops, and the 'Vicar of the Parish' has kindly opened a most comfortable reading room, where Jack can see most of the periodicals of the day, and satisfy his hunger and thirst with many good things at a reasonable cost.

As for the officers, it is due to them to say that they endeavour to turn the place to the best account. There is a weekly paper-chase, principally patronised by the midshipmen of the fleet. There are no jumps, or, rather, the Hakodadi pony does not jump; but he scrambles up sod-fences six or eight feet high, and deposits his hapless rider in the ditch on the other side. That, of course, is excellent sport. Nobody thinks of following the paper, because, you see, there is only one possible route, and so the hares must have gone that way. There is also a sailing regatta every Thursday in which the naval officer is given *carte blanche* to put on as much sail as he chooses and swamp the boat if he can. Many of them succeed to admiration in this not very difficult feat. Last Thursday one of them surpassed himself, and beat all previous records, by upsetting his boat before the race began. However, no-one is any worse for a wetting in salt water; and the Regatta, at any rate, passes away one afternoon out of the seven. One of the favourite rides here is to the sulphur and iron baths, about five miles from the town. The Japanese, as you are doubtless aware, are governed by primitive notions in the matter of bathing. The sexes bathe together after the manner of the watering places of La belle France—only without the bathing dress of civilisation. It is easy, therefore, to imagine the astonishment and consternation of one of our more modest brother officers, who was enjoying a bath at the springs, when two damsels came down to the same bath, and commenced their ablutions in that primitive costume which nature alone supplies. They were between him and the door, so escape was impossible.

But to return to more serious matters. On Friday last the whole fleet put to sea, and spent the day in steam tactics. I believe a similar evolution will take place some day this week. What further trials await as in this line, we none of us know. There are rumours that the ships that can sail or whose captains think they can, are to be sent for a short sailing cruise. But it is to be hoped that folly will be dropped; masts and sails are things of the past in

the navy, and it is to be regretted that ships are now-a-days ever supplied with such playthings.

The *Severn* is expected daily, our last news of her being that she had reached Nagasaki.

August 5th.

T. O. I.

THE STRANDING OF THE *FUNGSHUN*.

A Court of enquiry into this accident was held on Tuesday at the Custom House, the members of the Court being:—

M. Boyd Bredon, Esq., Commissioner of Customs, President,
Nav. Lieutenant Edgar G. H. Gamble,
H.M.S. *Merlin*,
Capt. Guthrie, s.s. *Bellerophon*,
E. V. Brennan, Esq., Acting Harbour Master,
E. Hext, Esq., I.M. Customs, Clerk of the Court.

After the evidence had been heard, the Court delivered the following finding:—

1.—The s.s. *Fungshun* of 863 tons register, owned by the China Merchants S. N. Co., and commanded by Capt. Ernest Walter Tisdall, left Shanghai for Chefoo and Tientsin on the morning of the 1st August, with a general cargo and 95 passengers, more or less.

All went well until the afternoon of the 2nd when the ship struck and glided over a rock on the N.E. point of Alceste Island. The master on finding that the steamer was leaking, decided on beaching her, which he successfully accomplished in a sandy bay about 3 miles to the S.W. of Alceste Island without any loss of life.

2.—That in the opinion of the Court, the *Fungshun* struck with her starboard bilge on a rock not marked on the chart, but still so close to the visible part of the reef as to be well within the distance of the one mile limit recommended by the sailing directions in the China Sea Directory.

3.—That the course kept in rounding the Promontory was in view of the strong and uncertain tides running at this point, and the dangerous reefs extending off it, so close to the land that it allowed no margin for rectifying an error in steering which in this case appears to have been one, if not the principal cause, which brought about the accident.

4.—That the Master therefore committed an error of judgment in taking the ship too close to the land when no tangible advantage could be derived from his so doing, and no reason existed for not keeping the full distance recommended at page 566, China Sea Directory, which reads as follows:—

"When bound to Wei-Hai-Wei Harbour, from the eastward, after rounding the Shantung Promontory, and giving Alceste Island a berth of one mile, etc., etc."

5.—That after the accident the behaviour of the Master, Officers and crew was in the highest degree commendable, and that the saving of the ship and of the lives on board was in a great measure due to Captain Tisdall's prompt action in beaching the vessel, thereby avoiding what might have been a lamentable catastrophe.

6.—That the chief officer, Mr. Frahm, is deserving of some censure for not keeping a better watch over the action of the quartermaster, whom he acknowledged to have been a bad steersman, the more especially as he admits in evidence that he considered the vessel to be too close to the land.

7.—That the evidence of the captain and the two deck officers shows that in the matter of selection of quartermasters, sufficient care is not exercised, regard being had to the importance of their duties, and it is recommended that the manager of the Company establish some system by which none shall be allowed to be employed as quartermasters for their steamers but men with certified discharges.

Poetry.

A POETICAL TRANSLATION OF CHAPTER I. OF THE DHAM- MAPADA.

BY SIR EDWIN ARNOLD, K. C. I. E., C. S. I.,

Thought in the mind hath made us. What
we are
By thought was wrought and built. If a
man's mind
Hath evil thoughts, pain comes on him as
comes
The wheel the ox behind.

All that we are is what we thought and
willed;
Our thoughts shape us and frame. If one
endure
In purity of thought, joy follows him
As his own shadow—sure.

"He hath defamed me, wronged me, injured
me,
Abased me, beaten me!" If one should
keep
Thoughts like these angry words within his
breast
Hatreds will never sleep.

"He hath defamed me, wronged me, injured
me,
Abased me, beaten me!" If one shall
send
Such angry words away for pardoning thoughts
Hatreds will have an end.

For never anywhere at any time
Did hatred cease by hatred. Always 'tis
By love that hatred ceases—only Love,
The ancient Law is this.

The many, who are foolish, have forgot—
Or never knew—how mortal wrongs pass
by:
But they who know and who remember, let
Transient quarrels die.

Whoso abides, looking for joy, unschooled,
Gluttonous, weak, in idle luxuries,
Mara will overthrow him, as fierce winds
Level short-rooted trees.

Whoso abides, disowning joys, controlled,
Temperate, faithful, strong, shunning all
ill,
Mara shall no more overthrow that man
Than the wind doth a hill.

Whoso *Kāshya* wears—the yellow robe—
Being *anishkashya*—not sin-free,
Nor heeding truth and governance—unfit
To wear that dress is he.

But whoso, being *nishkashya*, pure,
Clean from offence, doth still in virtues
dwell,
Regarding temperance and truth—that man
Weareth *Kāshya* well.

Whoso imagines truth in the untrue,
And in the true finds untruth—he expires
Never attaining knowledge: life is waste;
He follows vain desires.

Whoso discerns in truth the true, and sees
The false in falseness with unblinded eye,
He shall attain to knowledge; life with such
Aims well before it die.

As rain breaks through an ill-thatched roof,
so break
Passions through minds that holy thought
despise;
As rain runs from a perfect thatch, so run
Passions from off the wise.

The evil-doer mourneth in this world,
And mourneth in the world to come; in
both
He grieveth. When he sees fruits of his
deeds
To see he will be loath;

The righteous man rejoiceth in this world
And in the world to come: in both he
takes
Pleasure. When he shall see fruit of his
works
The good sight gladness makes.

Glad is he living, glad is dying, glad
Having once died; glad always, glad to
know

* There is a play here upon the words, *Kāshya* "the yellow robe of the Buddhist Priest, and *Kashya* "impurity."

What good deeds he hath done, glad to foresee
More good where he shall go.

The lawless man, who, not obeying Law,
Leaf after leaf recites, and line by line,
No Buddhist is he, but a foolish herd
Who counts another's kine.

The law-obeying, loving one, who knows
Only one verse of Dharma, but hath
ceased
From envy, hatred, malice, foolishness—
He is the Buddhist Priest.

EDWIN ARNOLD.

London, May 14th, 1889.

WHY HE DID NOT GO TO THE HOSPITAL. HE COULD LEAP THROUGH THE AIR.

My object in writing is two-fold: to express my gratitude for a great benefit, and to tell a short story which cannot fail to interest the feelings of many others. It is all about myself, but I have remarked that when a man tells the honest truth about himself he is all the more likely to be of use to his fellow-creatures. To begin, then, you must know I had long been more or less subject to attacks of bronchitis, a complaint that you are aware is very common and troublesome in Great Britain in certain seasons of the year. Some months ago I had a very severe turn of it, worse, I think, than I ever had before. It was probably brought on by my catching cold, as we are all apt to do when we least expect it. Weeks passed by, and my trouble proved to be very obstinate. It would not yield to medicine, and as I also began to have violent racking pains in my limbs and back, I became greatly alarmed. I could neither eat nor sleep. If I had been a feeble, sickly man, I should have thought less strangely of it; but as, on the contrary, I was hearty and robust, I feared some new and terrible thing had got hold of me, which might make my strength of no avail against it. I say, that was the way I thought.

Presently I could not even lie down for the pain all over my body. I asked my doctor what he thought of my condition, he frankly said "I am sorry to have to tell that you are getting worse!" This so frightened my friends, as well as myself, that they said "Thomas, you must go to the Hospital; it may be your only chance for life!"

But I didn't want to go to the hospital. Who does, when he thinks he can possibly get along without doing it? I am a labouring man, with a large family depending on me for support, and I might almost as well be in my grave as to be laid on my back in a hospital unable to lift a hand for months, or God knows how long. Right at this point I had a thought flash across my mind like a streak of sunshine in a cloudy day. I had heard and read a good deal about Mother Segel's Curative Syrup, and I resolved, before consenting to be taken to the hospital, I would try that well-known remedy. On this I gave up the doctor's medicine and began taking the Syrup. Mark the wonderful result! I had taken but three doses within twenty-four hours

when I was seized with a fit of coughing, and threw up the phlegm and mucus off my chest by the mouthful. The Syrup had loosened and broken it up. Continuing with the Syrup, the racking pain, which I believe came from the bitter and poison humours in my blood and joints, soon left me entirely, and I felt like going to sleep, and I did sleep sound and quiet. Then I felt hungry, with a natural appetite, and as I ate I soon got strong and well.

I felt I could leap through the air with delight!

In a week I was able to go to my work again. It doesn't seem possible, yet it is true, and the neighbours know it. There are plenty of witnesses to prove it. And, therefore, when I say I preach the good news of the great power of Segel's Syrup to cure pain and disease far and wide, nobody will wonder at me.

THOMAS CANNING.

75, Military-road, Canterbury,
Kent.

Mother Segel's Curative Syrup is for sale by all chemists and medicine vendors; and by the Proprietors, A. J. White, Limited, 35, Farringdon-road, London, E.C., England.

(1 & 5) o-a-f alt. tf 37

Miscellaneous Intelligence.

BIRTHS.

At Carter Road, Shanghai, on the 22nd instant, the wife of Captain E. SUENSON, of a daughter.

On the 22nd inst., at No. 1, Quinsan Road, Shanghai, the wife of HENRY OLLERDESSEN, of a daughter.

MARRIAGE.

On the 18th instant, at H.M.'s Consulate, Chefoo, and afterwards by the Rev. W. J. Williams, HERBERT FRANCIS BRADY, H.M.'s Legation, Peking, youngest son of Sir THOMAS FRANCIS BRADY, Knt., J.P., Her Majesty's Inspector of Irish Fisheries, to GEORGINA, daughter of C. MARSHALL HOLE, of Tiverton, Devonshire.

DEATH.

At Shaohsing, on the 10th August, the Rev. J. D. VALENTINE, Missionary of the C. M. S. at Ningpo, Hangchow and Shaohsing during the past 25 years.

PASSENGERS.

DEPARTED.

Per str. *Ganges*, for Marseilles—Messrs. J. J. Turner and F. H. Judd. For Bombay—Mr. J. C. Nicholson.

Per str. *Ironwaddy*, (Corrected list) for Japan—Miss Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. H. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Low, Captain and Mrs. Gulland, Mrs. C. Brown, Miss Wiedmann, Messrs. Fago, Gaddum, Ogle, Guillion.

Per str. *Haean*, for Tientsin—H.E. Shao and suite, and Nji Tsjen,

ARRIVED.

Per str. *Ironwaddy*, from Marseilles for Shanghai—Mr. Yan Kouec. From Hongkong—Mr. and Mrs. Vouillemont, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Scott, Messrs. Ogle, Girard, Zeno, E. d'Aquino and 3 Chinese. For Japan—Messrs. Toukoumoto, Shimada, Arakawa,

Ito, Moseley, Wedderspoon, Heygate, Doi, Lambiche, Justin, Gsell, A. and G. Guerrieri, Mrs. Anata, Miss Haron, Mrs. Pellat, Mr. and Mrs. Dubermard, Mr. and Mrs. Yeatherd, infant and maid.

Per str. *Saikio Maru*, from Yokohama, &c.—Mrs. Moutrie and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. Burke and servant, Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Stevens, Rev. W. M. Hayes, Capt C. H. Clifford, Messrs. Hart Buck, D. W. Crawford, J. Ambrose, C. Moller, Mustard and servant and J. Fujimoto.

Per str. *Haean*, from Tientsin—H.E. Wong. Per str. *Taisang*, from Swatow—His Ex. J. Helemis Ferguson (Netherlands Minister in China).

Per str. *Pechili*, from Foochow—Messrs. Collins and C. de Souza.

Per str. *Kiangkwan*, from Hankow—Mr. W. W. Rockhill, and Mons. Jules Forestier.

Per str. *Kiangyung*, from Hankow—Bishop Garnier, Rev. Mr. Mitchell.

Per str. *Poochi*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Messrs. C. H. Judd, Frederick Judd and Liu and family.

Per str. *Ngankin*, from Hankow—Rev. V. R-ovide, and Mr. J. Turner.

Per str. *Haeting*, from Tientsin and Chefoo—Miss Groves, Mrs. Findlay and child and V. C. Hunter.

Per str. *Fuhwo*, from Kiukiang—Dr. Underwood.

Per str. *Ichang*, from Ningpo—Mrs. G. Smith, Miss A. L. Higginbotham, and Mr. G. Racine.

Per str. *Sin Nanzing*, from Chefoo and Tientsin—Capt. Watts, Mons. Au'ry, and Mr. Tempest Wood.

Per str. *Shanghai*, from Hankow—General and Mrs. Jones, Messrs. E. B. Skottowe and A. Price.

Per str. *W. Cores de Vries*, from Chinkiang—Misses (2) Fitch, and Master Fitch.

METEOROLOGICAL REPORT.

Day of Month.	Barometer		WIND.	Hygrometer at 9 A.M.		Thermometer in shade		Initial.
	10 A.M.	Atmos. Therm.		Force.	Dry bulb.	Wet bulb.	Max.	Min.
Aug 18	29.90	85.0	N.W.	1	85.0	83.0	89.0	81.5
19	29.66	83.5	E.E.	1	82.5	81.5	80.0	78.0
20	29.55	77.5	Z.	0	77.5	77.0	80.0	75.0
21	29.82	81.5	S.E.	3	81.5	82.0	84.0	75.0
22	29.84	85.0	E.S.E.	4	85.0	83.0	85.0	79.0
23	29.80	83.0	E.N.E.	4	83.0	82.0	85.0	76.0
24	29.80	79.5	N.E.	6	79.5	79.0	83.0	78.0

EXPLANATION.

Initials:—b. blue sky; c. clouds; f. fog; h. hail; l. lightning; m. misty (hazy); o. overcast (dull); r. rain; s. snow; t. thunder; z. calm. Force from 1 to 12; estimated.

PRICE OF THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD AND S. C. & C. GAZETTE.—Per Annum, Taels 12; Six Months, Taels 6.50. Three Months, 3.50—all payable in advance. Credit price, Tls. 13.15 per Annum; Subscriptions will be considered as renewed unless notice to the contrary be given before the expiry of the current term.

TERMS FOR ADVERTISING.—Ten Lines (space *Bourgeois*) and under, *One Tael*; each additional line *One Mace*. One-half of these charges for repetitions. Contracts may be made for 3 months, or longer, payable in advance.

SUBSCRIPTIONS received, and Single Copies sold, by Messrs. STREET & Co., 30, Cornhill,

LONDON (E.C.)

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

SHANGHAI, 24th August, 1889.

PIECE GOODS.—There is no improvement to advise in our market as yet, business continuing on a small scale, and prices practically unchanged privately, although they look weak at auction. The natives have shown a good deal of apathy and are evidently without orders, except for immediate requirements, and present prices do not offer sufficient inducements for speculators to operate. Importers, on the other hand, show no disposition to force sales, knowing full well that the goods cannot be replaced, and are, therefore, quite content to sit idle and listen to the usual excuses that are offered for the prevailing dullness—the want of money, the hot weather, or the inevitable settling-day, which is always looming up in the near future—the latter have certainly made themselves felt a great deal more on the last few occasions than for years past, which may be taken as further proof, if proofs were wanting, of the instability of the trade! The private telegrams received during the week all bear evidence to the strong and advancing position of the Manchester market, and Reuter quotes Cotton up 3/16d., say 6 1/2d. per lb., but, as this must refer only to the remains of the old season's Cotton, it looks very much as though speculation were the cause of this. However, buyers for China are holding off and there promises to be a very large falling off in the export this month, it being for the first fortnight only 10 million yards of *Plain Cottons* to Hongkong and China.

Up to within the last few days clearances have kept up very well, both for the North and the River, Woollens and Fancies showing a marked improvement, goods that arrived months ago under indent beginning to move at last.

Newchwang advices have continued favorable, the crops there have been abundant and a very satisfactory export business is looked for, which should stimulate the trade of the port generally. The markets at our other dependencies are unaltered.

Grey Shirtings.—8-4-lbs.—Sales aggregate about 25,000 pieces at the following prices:—*Black Dragon* £1.45, *Cock and Owl* £1.48, *Blue Globe* £1.52, *Green Dragon and Bell* £1.54, *Red Cash* £1.55, *Red Rhinoceros* and *Red Cormorant* £1.56 (net), *Four Boys* £1.58, *Blue Swan* and *Two Flies* £1.67, *Seven Child* and *Six Boys* £1.77, *Hand and Branch* £1.85, and *Blue Dragon* and *5 Old Men* £1.87. These prices show no alteration, the demand running chiefly on medium makes, which are steady to firm at auction, while common and fine are weak.

6-lbs. and 7-lbs. are also weak at auction, and command no attention privately.

9-12 to 11-lbs.—Nothing is reported beyond a few 9-12-lbs. *Guardsman* at £2.04 and 11-lbs. *Blue Artillery* at £2.33. The market is very dull, and prices of all grades are drooping at the public sales. These goods are in heavy stock.

12-lbs., 36 inch.—No sales are reported. The market is steady, especially for the best.

White Shirtings.—A small sale of *Green Cock* 64-reed is mentioned at £1.62, and a few fine at £2.40, beyond which there is nothing doing. At auction 64-reeds are gradually improving, but 72-reed are weak and declining. Present prices are so much below cost that Importers are not pressing sales in face of the strong market at home. *White Irishes* have been sold to a small extent at £2.75.

T-Cloths.—7-lb.—The market is fairly steady for good Mexicans, but the business is still very small, the few sales reported being *Blue Rhinoceros* £1.19, *Three Fish* £1.20, *Red Anchor* £1.25, and *Red Man and Fish* £1.26. Rates are slightly easier for auction chops.

8-lbs.—No private sales mentioned, and at auction prices have declined.

Bombay.—Nothing doing. Further reshipments have been made to *Bombay*.

Drills.—*English.*—The demand is very slack, and, beyond a few *Lioness* at £2.17, and 3,000 pieces *Crocodile* and *Beaver* at £2.65 and £2.70 respectively, we hear of nothing doing.

American.—The sale of *Pepperell*, mentioned last week, appears to have been 22,500 pieces at £2.76 less 1 per cent., and not 7,500 pieces at £2.77. This week the only transaction has been 3,750 pieces *Boott Cock* at £2.67 less 1 per cent. which makes the market look steady.

Jeans.—There is a good demand still for best quality, and prices are up at auction. A sale of *Tai-long Beaver* is reported at £1.77.

Sheetings.—*English.*—The market is very dull, and the only quotations that have appeared are:—*Dragon* £1.62, *Red Lion* £2.25, and *Man Head* £2.52.

American.—2,000 pieces *Buck's Head* at £2.57 is the total business for the week, a good deal of the former large purchases still remaining uncleared. The market is nominally steady, but there is very little demand.

Cotton Yarn.—*English.*—No particulars of sales have reached us, but single and double Yarns are still enquired for and are firm.

Bombay.—A quiet business is passing at about previous quotations, 10s. and 12s. keeping very strong. Sales amount to 1,119 bales as under.

No. 10s., 161 bales—*New Express* and *Mundir* £53, and *Alexandra* (Bullock) £52.

No. 12s., 43 bales—*Imperial* £54.10/54.25.

No. 16s., 195 bales—*Star of India* (Mule) £56, *Mazagon* £56.85, *Gitar* and *Pa'ki* £57, and *Framjee Petit* (Fish) £57/57.

No. 20s., 715 bales—*Afied* £56, *Star of India* (Mule) £58 *Amjad Bagh* £58, *Gitar* and *Star of India* (King) £58, *Mundir* and *Venishunker* (King) £59, *David Mill* £59, and *Connaught* £60/59.

No. 24s., 5 bales—*Mofussil* £61.

Fancy Goods.—The chief feature of the week has been the improvement in clearances of old purchases and indents, but, as far as fresh business goes, there is not much to advise. *Turkey Reds* continue quiet with only a small business doing. Some of the heavier weights under a new chop, *Woman and Child*, have been sold at £1.85 for 5-lbs., £1.90 for 5½-lbs., and £1.95 for 6-lbs. *Velvets* have realised steady prices at auction. *Cotton Lastings* have been moving off more freely lately than for some time past, and there is a good demand still for *Plain* and *Figured Italians*, sales of 1,100 pieces of the former have been made at £2.10, £2.35 and £2.65 for three different qualities, and 1,000 pieces of the latter at £2.40.

Woollens.—The auction sales of *Camlets* have gone rather better on the whole, and the market looks firmer, especially for the best chops. *Long Els* are also improving, though the private demand continues dull. *Lastings* are about the same, but there is a very limited enquiry. *Spanish Stripes* seem to have taken a new lease of life—prices have advanced at auction and a good business has been done privately. *H. H. Gentian* selling at £0.51, *H. Scarlet* at £0.43, *Gentian* at £0.43, and *Maure* £0.46, and 240 pieces *Scarlet*, *Queen* chop, at £0.39. *Medium* cloth is in a little better demand, and 180 pieces *Dark Blue* have been settled at £0.60 for *Crane* and £0.67 for *Dragon*. *Russian Cloth* is very quiet and lower at auction.

Metals.—From Mr. Alex. Bielfeld's Report, 23rd Aug.:—Since date of my last circular, 17th instant, trade has continued tame and lifeless, and the volume of transactions has again been of small proportions. Reports from Newchwang are slightly better.

LEAD.—There is a small demand at quotations, which are somewhat firmer. 50 tons *Enthoven* are reported done at £1.20, and L. B. is not obtainable under £1.35.

PIG IRON is wanted at quotations.

RAILROAD IRON has been in better inquiry; there is some demand for *Scotch* at £2.35. 50 tons *Danes*, "spot," have been booked at £2.32, and 50 tons *Soliers* at £2.12, usually delivery.

BAR IRON.—A parcel of *Soliers* has been placed at £2.02.

OLD IRON.—Horse-shoes can only be placed at a considerable concession in prices, present quotation for *Glasgow* is £1.45. Of *Scrap Iron* 100 tons "spot" have been placed at £1.37 to £1.47, and 25 tons *Cart Tyres* are reported sold, "to arrive," at £1.65. A few hundred tons *Boiler Plate Cuttings* and *Hoop Iron* have been contracted for at £1.57 and £1.36 respectively.

STEEL.—Some 2,000 boxes *Anchor* or *Chop* are reported sold at £3.50, and 500 boxes *New Chop* at £3.47.

STRAITS TIN has been more active, and prices are tending upwards. Sales during the week foot-up to some 600 slabs.

COPPER SHEATHING.—Sales are reported of 14 to 18 oz. at £18.50.

WHITE METAL AND NICKEL.—Stocks are low, and the demand is improving in consequence.

CAMAGON WOOD.—Some 3,000 piculs have been imported by a native firm from Hongkong. Values are unchanged.

Miscellaneous Goods.—There continues generally speaking a very quiet market for all articles under this heading—so much so that at auctions no offers were obtainable for some of the usually most saleable goods—*Umbrellas*, *Towels* and *Handkerchiefs*. Sales reported are:—75 cases *Vienna Matches*, *Peacock* chop £17.25, 10 cases No. 1/5, *Gold-eyed Needles*, paper box-£36, 100 cases *Logwood Extract* £12.20, 20 cases *Ultramarine Bird-cage* chop £7.50, 5 bales, 6 lb., 1 bale, 1 lb. *Scarlet Blankets* £0.29, 20 cases, No. 45, all *Black*, *Llama* *Braid* £0.40, 50 cases *Scotch Mixture* (Sweet) £0.85, 20 cases *Worm Tablets* £0.90, 2,000 bottles, ea. 2 oz., *Crystal Green*, *Peacock* chop £0.14.

Kerosene Oil.—No transactions of any magnitude are on record—there is but a very limited consumptive demand, and no speculative movement noticeable. At auctions small sales of damaged goods have been made at £1.24 to £1.33 for *Russian*, and £1.43 for *Devoes*. At the close quotations are weak at £1.49 for *Devoes* and £1.33 to £1.36 for *Russian*. Stocks are about 440,000 cases.

Opium.—Closing quotations:—*Malwa* (new) £428, (old) £440, *Patna* £398, *Benares* £335, (new) £400.

EXPORTS.

Silk.—From Messrs. Cromie & Burkill's circular, Aug. 23rd:—London telegrams quote—Silk dull. Deliveries of *Chinas* to the 19th instant 600 bales.

RAW SILKS.—Beyond a good demand for nearly all descriptions of *Yellow Silks* there has been very little business passing, the few sales of *Tsates* reported during the week showing no change in quotations. Best chops continue firm and in short supply.

TSATES.—About 200 bales have been settled at £390 for *Best No. 4*.

HANGCHOWS.—Nothing doing.

TAYSAMS.—Purchases include 100 bales of *Kahings*, 30 bales of *Chincums* and 2½ bales of *Skeins*.

YELLOW SILKS.—Sales are reported of 300 piculs at £262, a 292½ for *Shantung*, at £267½ a 272½ for *Mienchow*, at £232½ for *Wongyi*, at £227½ a 230 for *Meeyang* and *Kooyung* and at £182½ for *Szechong*.

Arrivals, as per Customs Returns, from the 17th to the 22nd of August, are about 1,100 bales of *White Silks*, 600 piculs of *Yellow Silks*, and 100 piculs of *Wild Silks*.

RE-REELS.—No fresh business. Dealers are indisposed to run into stock, and are only willing to contract for forward delivery.

WILD SILKS.—Nothing doing.

WASTE SILKS.—No transactions have been reported.

SHANTUNG PONGEES.—No market.

Purchases include:—**TSATES.**—*Black Lion* II½ £390, *Red Pagoda* II £390, *Chick* IV £387½, *Gold Kilin* £306½, *Market* £262½ a £275. **TAYSAMS.**—*White Kahing*, *Gold Lion*, "San-how" £290, *Green Kahing* *Cicada* I £335, *Green Kahing* *Ye-van-onong* *Ghay-ling* I £317½, *Green Kahing* M £310, *Green Kahing* *Almond Flower* I £307½. **CHINCUMS.**—*Tiger* extra I £342½, *Tiger* I £332½, *Tiger* II £322½. **SKAINS.**—*Market* £245 a £255. **YELLOW SILK.**—*Shantung*, *Gold Goat* £292½, *Market* £262½ a £285, *Mienchow* £272½, *Wongyi* £232½, *Kooyung* £230, *Meeyang* £227½, *Szechong* £182½. **RE-REELLED TSATES.**—*Market* I £370, *Market* II £360, *Market* III £350.

	1889-90.	1888-89.	1887-88.	1886-87.	1885-86.	1884-85.
Settlements for this mail + ...	about 1,000	1,000	1,500	2,000	1,500	2,000 bales.
" for the season + ...	23,500	11,500	18,500	16,000	8,000	23,000 "
Stock	11,500	13,500	13,500	13,000	16,000	9,000 "
Total Arrivals	35,000	25,000	32,000	29,000	24,000	32,000 "
† Exclusive of purchases for re-sale on this market.						
* England. * France, &c. Total Europe. America. India & Egypt. Coast & Straits. Grand Total.						
Export White Silk	1,741	16,552	18,293	538	170	348
" Yellow	1,242	1,242	...	390	7	1,629
" Wild	543	795	1,338	13	...	1,351
	2,284	18,589	20,873	551	560	355
Against in 1888-89	1,427	7,280	8,707	847	657	512
" 1887-88	2,158	12,713	14,871	498	686	506
Export—Waste Silk	5,442	4,477	9,919	...	...	34
" Cocoons	1,477	146	1,623	...	...	31

* Many shipments are now sent optional, Marseilles or London.
Also 66 piculs Old Silk Wadding to London.
" 10 " " to Continent.

Tea.—BLACK.—The market has been very quiet and settlements for the week only amount to 2,200 half-chests at from £10 a 18 per picul. Prices for all grades show a downward tendency, and Common to Good Common are quite one tael lower.
STOCK.—154,820 half-chests against 77,480 half-chests in 1888-1889.
GREEN.—There has been a general fall in the prices of Country Teas of 1 to 2 taels from opening rates, and a fair business has been passing at chiefly in Moyunes at the decline. In Pingsueys so many settlements are either on joint account, or shipped on native account, that it is difficult to give reliable quotations.
STOCK.—57,000 ½-chests against 51,600 ½-chests in 1888-1889.

SUMMARY OF SETTLEMENTS FOR THE WEEK.

Pingsuey	3,910 half-chests at £16½ a 25 per picul.
Moyune	4,818 " £22 a 28½ "
Teenkai	2,778 " £18½ a 27½ "
Pychow	433 " £17½ a 18½ "

EXPORT OF TEA FROM SHANGHAI AND YANGTZE PORTS.

From the commencement of the season to date 1889-1890.

	1889-90.			1888-89		
	<i>Black.</i>	<i>Green.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Black.</i>	<i>Green.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
To Great Britain.....	29,922,269	1,178,173	31,100,442 lbs.	35,243,862	1,314,323	36,561,185 lbs.
Russia direct	17,863,140		17,863,140 "	16,788,021		16,788,021 "
America	3,052,126	4,650,032	7,702,158 "	1,542,979	2,743,244	4,286,233 "

EXPORT OF TEA TO NORTHERN PORTS.

To Russian Manchuria.				From Hankow and Shanghai.			To Tientsin.		From Foochow.		Total.
	Black Tea.	Brick Tea.	Green Tea.	Black Tea.	Brick Tea.	Dust.	Green Tea.	Black.	Brick.		
1889 x 1890...	1,106,734	3,171,913	..	3,754,860	152,073	16,503	40,435	1,478,796	5,013	9,726,417	lbs.
1888 x 1889...	1,624,520	2,886,905	137	5,308,357	499,642	33,405	126,012	939,883	11,200	11,430,061	„

HANKOW.—From Hankow General Chamber of Commerce Report of 20th August:—Business reported since the 6th inst. is as under:—

	1889.	1888.
Settlements	5,000 ½ chests.	21,550 ½ chests.
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account	8,740 "	19,450 "
Consisting of the following Teas, cost in London being calculated at 4/4½ per tael Exchange, and £2 per ton Freight, direct hence:—		
Oopacks	1,840 ½ chests, at £ 7.00 a 8.50 per picul = 6 a 6½ per lb.	
Oonams	360 " £ 8.00 a 11.00 "	6½ a 7½ "
Oonfaas	2,800 " £ 7.50 a 9.15 "	6 a 6½ "

The following are Statistics at date compared with the corresponding circular last season:—

HANKOW TEA.	1889.	1888.	KIUKIANG TEA.	1889.	1888.
	½-chest ½-chest.			½-chest ½-chest.	
Settlements	552,730	690,980	Settlements	306,230	269,280
Shipments to Shanghai on Native account	62,050	45,650	Shipments to Shanghai on Native account	47,490	12,700
Stock	101,000	30,000	Stock	...	...
Arrivals	715,780	766,630	Arrivals	353,720	281,980

The entire business to date as compared with the corresponding circular last year, is as under:—

	1889.	1888.
For London and America	367,490 ½-chests	468,350 ½-chests.
" Russia	491,470 "	491,910 "
	*858,960 ½-chests.	+ 960,260 ½-chests.

*306,230 ½-chests Kiukiang Tea included. +269,280 ½-chests Kiukiang Tea included.

Comparative Quotations are as under:—

	1889.	1888.	1887.
Oopack*	£ 7.00 a 8.50	8.0 a 13.75	11.50 a per picul.
Oonams	" 8.00 a 11.00	8.25 a 13.00	7.50 a 9.50 "
Oonfaas	" 7.50 a 9.15	7.85 a 12.25	9.00 a 15.00 "
Seang-tam*	"	5.90 a 6.50	6.85 a "

The Export to date as per Customs Returns stands thus:—

Season	1889-90.	1888-89.	1887-88.	1886-87.
"	40,311,432 lbs.	43,894,100 "	50,209,072 "	57,513,321 "

The following are the departures for London:—

As per last Report in 6 steamers	16,051,124 lbs.
Against in 7 steamers last year	21,857,371 lbs.

Departure for Odessa:

As per last Report in 6 steamers	16,797,177 lbs.
Against in 5 steamers last year	15,002,057 lbs.

FREIGHTS.—Through rate to London, £2 Sterling per ton of 40 cubic feet.

EXCHANGE.—The comparative quotations are as under:—

	1889.	1888.		1889.	1888.
On London, Bank Bills on demand	4/4	4/3½	On Shanghai, Bank Bills on demand	2½ per cent.	2½ per cent.
Credits, 4 months' sight	4/4½	4/4	3 days' sight Private	3½ "	3½ "
do. 6 "	4/5½	4/4½	On Hongkong, Bank Bills on demand	29 "	29 "

At E-tch-lee, same day—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—500 pieces; Green Banana £1.61½ and Red Chong Yuen XXI £1.70½.

10-lbs.—750 pieces; Red Chong Yuen XXI £1.88½.

10.8-lbs.—250 pieces; Red Chong Yuen XXX £1.88½.

Jeans.—English.—150 pieces; Red Stag £1.74½/75.

At Takoo, 20th inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—7-lbs.—750 pieces; Silver Steamboat £1.20½.

8.4-lbs.—3,500 pieces; Blue Eagle £1.26½/26½, Man, Horse and Spear £1.38½/39, Silver Steamer £1.53½/54½ and Blue Dragon £1.72½/72½.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—1,190 pieces; Man Horse and Spear M.T. No. 2 £1.18/18½, do. No. 1 £1.21/21½, and Silver Dragon £1.39½.

8-lbs.—1,295 pieces; Man Horse and Spear M.T. No. 1 £1.36½/36½, Silver Steamboat £1.44½/45 and Silver Dragon £1.62½/62½.

At E-wo, 21st inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—8.4-lbs.—2,580 pieces; Black Tea Caddy XX £1.52½/53, Blue 2 Duck £1.53½, Blue 3-Duck £1.54½/55, Red Crab XX £1.63½, Blue Bell XX £1.77/77½, Blue Tea Caddy DDD £1.80½ and Blue 2 Tea Caddy £1.89.

10-lbs.—1,550 pieces; Red Crab £1.92½/92½, Blue Crab XX £1.96½/96½, Blue Tea Caddy £1.96½/97½, Blue Tea Caddy CC £2.12½/13½, and Blue Tea Caddy DDD £2.20.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—700 pieces; Red Tea Caddy £1.20 and Blue do. £1.28/28½.

8-lbs.—300 pieces; Red Tea Caddy £1.29½.

Drills.—English, 14-lbs.—270 pieces; Cock £2.13½/14, and 3 Buffalo Head £2.26½/27½.**Cashmeres.**—320 pieces; Lion and Stork £1.25/25½.**White Muslins.**—1,200 pieces; White and Gold Lion £0.37½/37½, and Orange Lion £0.39½.**Cotton Lastings.**—40 pieces; Assorted £2.63½.**Embossed Velvets.**—63 pieces; Assorted £0.21½.

At Yuen-fong, 22nd inst.—

Grey Shirtings.—6-lbs.—1,300 pieces; Lotus £0.90½, Two Man £0.95 and Blue 3-Students £0.96½.

7-lbs.—1,350 pieces; Blue Britannia £1.22½, Blue 4-Sister £1.38½ and Blue 3-Students £1.44½.

8.4-lbs.—4,765 pieces; Two Man £1.33½/35½, House £1.38½/39, Blue Britannia £1.42½, Blue 4-Sister £1.54½, Blue 3-Students £1.55, Blue Double Shield £1.63, Painted 3-Students £1.78½ and Five Brother £1.78½/79.

10-lbs.—2,000 pieces; Blue Britannia £1.76½/76½, Red Emperor's Birthday £1.92½/93, Red Britannia, £1.92/92½, Red 3-Students £1.99½, and Red 4-Sister £2.18½.

10.12-lbs.—460 pieces; Gold Britannia £2.21½.

11-lbs.—750 pieces; Painted 3-Students £2.31.

12-lbs.—400 pieces; Loo-Loo-Toong £2.23, Soldier £2.42½, and Nine Lions £2.44½.

White Shirtings.—64-reed, 2,400 pieces; House bright £1.46/46½, and dull £1.45½, Blue Double Lighthouse bright £1.50½/50½, and dull £1.49, Gold 4-Sister £1.57½, Running Deer £1.72½/73½ and Black Gold 3-Students £1.73½.

72-reed.—4,750 pieces; White and Gold 3-Students £1.85½/86, Red Two-Sister £1.87½, Red Double Lighthouse bright £1.89½/89½, dull £1.91, Red and Gold Star bright £2.07/07½, dull £2.07½, and Green and Gold 3-Students (Irishes) £2.55.

T-Cloths.—7-lbs.—730 pieces; Blue Lion £1.20½, Red Double Shield £1.20½, and Red 3-Students £1.32½/32½.

8-lbs.—800 pieces; Blue Lion £1.32½/33½, Eagle XX £1.42, and Painted 3-Students £1.62/62½.

Drills.—English, 14-lbs.—240 pieces; Britannia £2.50½, and Old Man Head £2.60.

15-lbs.—180 pieces; Running Deer £2.19.

Sheetings.—English, 14-lbs.—380 pieces; Lion and Cloud £2.18½, and Old Man Head £2.56½/56½.**Jeans.**—English, 8-lbs.—120 pieces; Two Squirrel £1.94½/94½.

WOOLLENS.

Auctions—	Scarlet.	Dk. Blue.	Dk. Gentian.	Green, and N. Green.	Orange and Yellow.	Ash & Lav.	White.	Purple.	Black.	Brown & Mag.	Mauve.	Lt. Gt. Mid.	Sales Pcs.
NIE-KEE, 17th inst.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	Tls.	
Lastings, 百福, p.p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6 60	...	...	...	20
Sales, p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	
S. S'p'cs, B.T.L., p.yd.	0.43 2/43½	0.44 9	0.44½	0.47.05/47.9	0.43	0.45.85	0.42	0.43.55	0.45.4	0.46.4	0.46.4	0.44.3	258
Sales, p.c.	96	6	18	18	6	24	6	12	12	36	18	24	
Elephant & Pot	...	0.25½	...	0.25½	0.25½	0.25½	...	...	0.25½	0.25½	0.25½	0.39½	
Sales p.c.	...	1	...	1	1	1*	...	...	...	1*	1	24	30
TAI-PING, 19th inst.													
Cloths, Sea H'se, p.p.c.	8.70/73	8.50	8 69/70	8.60	8 63	...	...	...	...	...	8.58	...	100
Sales, p.c.	30	10	30	10	10	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	
Long Ells, No. 10 Sea Horse	4.55/55½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.c.	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5.98	...	...	...	
L'tings, No. 7 Sea H'se	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...	...	...	40
Sales, p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
E-TEN-LZE, 19th inst.													
Camlets, I.I.L., p. pec.	...	11.72½	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Sales, p.c.	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Lasting, H.H. p. pec.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7.75/85	...	...	...	60
Sales, p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...	...	...	
Sp. Stripes, 1 Pagoda.	0.38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6
Sales, p.c.	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
3 Pagoda, p.yd.	0.38	...	0.39.9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Sales, p.c.	6	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Rus. C'th, House, p.p.c.	...	13.60/65	14.35	12.20	...	...	...	...	14.35	...	...	...	69
Sales, p.c.	...	40	10	3	...	...	...	...	10	...	...	...	
E-wo, 21st inst.													
Cloths, Man Horse, p.p	9.26/28	...	9.18	9.22	9 06	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.c.	50	...	20	20	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
Bear, p. pec.	8.57/58	...	8.61/62	8.62	8.54/55	...	...	...	...	...	86.7	...	200
Sales p.c.	100	...	40	20	30	...	...	...	...	...	10	...	
Long Ells, H.D.B.p.p.	4.85/86	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	260
Sales, p.c.	260	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
S'gle Phoenix	4.58/59	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.c.	100	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
S. S'p'cs, S'gle Phoenix	0.39 4/39½	...	0.41.1/41.3	...	...	...	...	0.42	...	...	...	...	204
Sales, p.c.	72	...	120	...	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	
YUEN-FONG, 22nd inst.													
Camlets, S.S.G. p.p.c.	10.12½/17½	9.87½	10.07½/12½	...	10.25/27½	...	...	9.07½	10.50	...	9.52½/55	10.00	400
Sales, p.c.	170	70	80*	...	20	...	...	10	10	...	20	20*	
G.G.M., p.p.	10.42½	...	10.17½	...	10.45	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Sales, p.c.	20	...	20*	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
S.S.H., p.p.c.	9 52½	9.12½/17½	9.62½/65	...	9.67½/70	9.82½	9.70	...	...	...	9.30/35	9.70	390
Sales, p.c.	150	90	80*	...	20	10	10	...	...	...	30	10*	
Long Ells, G.G.L., p.p.	5.25	...	...	...	...	...	...	5 10	...	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.c.	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	
Lastings, G.G.R., p.p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8.55/60	...	...	9.00	300
Sales, p.c.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280	...	...	20*	
F.F.R., p.p.c.	...	...	7.30	...	...	...	...	...	6.80	...	...	...	100
Sales, p.c.	...	...	20	...	...	...	...	...	30	...	...	...	
S. S'p'cs, T.T.B. p.yd.	0.47½	0.48½	0.49	...	0.45½	0.49	...	0.44½	0.45½	...	...	0.50½	126
Sales, p.c.	60	12	6	...	6	6	...	6	6	...	...	24	

Statement of Imports and Deliveries of Cotton and Woollen Piece Goods for the week ending 22nd August 1889, compiled from the "Customs Daily Returns," Nos. 188 to 193, both numbers inclusive.

RE-EXPORTS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS.																	
Goods.	Ningpo.	Wanchow.	Chinkiang.	Wuhu.	Kinkiang.	Hankow.	Chafu.	Tientsin.	Newchwang.	Pootung.	Hongkong.	Nagasaki.	Huogo.	Yokohama.	Corea.	Total.	Residual.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs.	3,005	...	19,000	700	1,040	25,440	2,410	43,190	...	...	250	...	...	...	580	8,800	460
T-Cloths, 32-in.	635	...	1,435	225	260	1,125	5,950	5,875	150	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,300	6,315
" 36-in.	660	...	...	110	360	300	...	500	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,900	120
White Shirtings	835	...	1,180	450	150	8,207	1,150	10,590	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	3,800	1,190
Drills, English & Dutch	270	...	1,620	330	90	210	3,075	6,190	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	2,050
" American	165	...	2,085	105	15	525	2,220	9,825	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Jeans, English & Dutch	790	...	60	...	30	40	200	2,180	...	...	...	...	...	...	30	200	...
" American	20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Sheetings, English	260	...	560	180	300	1,000	2,250	5,230	...	...	...	...	...	...	20	200	2,590
" American	200	...	120	...	...	...	4,030	22,875	400	...	...	...	...	...	...	180	300
Dyed Shirtings	40	...	...	...	...	100	180	130	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	200	...
Brocades & Sp. Stings, White	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
" Dyed	50	...	98	...	50	...	140	722	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	150	...
Demasks, Dyed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Chintzes	50	...	550	60	50	807	250	1,560	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	280	...
Printed T-Cloths	149	...	460	60	...	110	100	1,783	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	160	...
Printed Twills	...	...	723	160	...	452	80	2,379	80	...	...	...	...	...	...	240	...
Turkey Red Shirtings	95	...	754	200	150	1,454	614	2,060	...	...	850	...	...	...	...	350	160
Velvets	30	...	40	168	...	480	150	102	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90	...
Velveteens	...	...	10	...	60	288	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Handkerchiefs	200	...	728	840	200	600	...	200	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,200	...
Muslins	...	...	...	...	...	200	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	400	400	...
Dimities	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cotton Yarn, Bombay.....Pels.	...	...	6	...	162	165	1,203	2,193	...	...	...	...	141	...	3	...	...
" English	...	...	15	...	66	486	...	366	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Spanish Stripes	66	...	282	48	90	168	12	90	...	...	12	6	...	...	...	108	...
Medium and Broad Cloths	16	...	106	56	24	568	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	12
Camlets	120	...	60	110	160	901	...	170	...	...	50	...	...	...	...	80	...
Long Ellis	...	...	200	320	100	990	40	160	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	50	...
Lastings	40	...	80	40	40	2,408	40	280	20	...	...	60	...	...	80	200	29
" Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	40	...
Lastings, Cotton & Italians	180	...	2,177	100	...	2,810	384	8,729	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	450	45
Lustres, Plain	30	...	...	...	...	240	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	60	...
Figured Orleans	40	...	240	60	...	118	...	40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	120	...
Lustres, Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lead in Pigs	267	...	205	64	491	...	...	69	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Iron—Nail Rod	493	...	483	50	130	567	126	378	...	...	...	63	...	...	...	...	...

Goods.	TOTAL DELIVERIES.			TOTAL IMPORTS.			STOCKS AT DATE ARE BASED ON THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RETURNS, OF 1ST JULY, 1889.	
	As above.	For the Year from 1st Jan., 1889.	Against last year to same term.	For the Week.	For the year from 1st Jan., 1889.	Against last year to same term.	*At date Estimated.	Against 22nd August 1888.
Grey Shirtings †.....Pcs.	110,095	3,870,613	4,046,476	67,877	4,056,158	3,782,640	1,136,953	576,465
T-Cloths, 32-in.	25,270	934,891	940,902	2,730	827,158	1,090,259	531,637	347,252
" 36-in.	4,950	227,077	138,065	4,440	310,510	289,662	199,248	140,501
White Shirtings	28,047	1,209,811	1,176,676	14,202	1,197,937	1,695,850	525,004	568,283
Drills, English and Dutch	14,015	220,383	256,309	420	254,120	365,340	274,073	180,058
" American	15,060	313,193	225,029	...	395,540	282,520	74,520	40,936
Jeans, English and Dutch	3,800	89,261	91,541	1,390	64,076	103,664	19,494	73,731
" American	20	5,840	14,785	...	5,000	9,000	...	14,420
Sheetings, English	12,590	377,851	582,101	11,460	236,128	811,116	355,022	400,620
" Am.	28,105	784,421	576,211	...	588,620	1,109,065	539,104	653,825
Dyed Shirtings	650	110,835	97,009	2,257	72,513	142,936	20,343	42,168
Bro. & Spot. Shirts, White	...	2,053	710	...	1,006	2,512	1,949	3,900
" Dyed	1,210	21,759	23,762	1,550	18,309	35,661	9,130	8,156
Demasks, Dyed	...	170	720	...	12	1,143	4,959	183
Chintzes	3,607	162,910	170,663	610	108,855	287,091	14,304	41,364
Printed T-Cloths	2,822	99,283	116,850	...	51,078	130,014	150,953	263,377
Printed Twills	4,114	57,384	61,966	20	47,942	140,460	129,328	110,860
Turkey Red Shirtings	6,717	256,769	244,350	9,804	230,201	308,568	140,316	130,908
Velvets	1,060	25,196	21,745	384	12,941	28,975	9,673	24,903
Velveteens	428	8,509	9,317	324	8,649	11,126	12,818	7,258
Handkerchiefs	7,968	295,864	192,481	5,452	235,704	428,149	268,125	314,226
Muslins	1,006	173,214	211,974	...	241,611	355,054	186,820	132,260
Dimities	...	100	680	...	9	1,288	1,613	2,703
Cotton Yarn, Bombay.....Pels.	3,873	107,506	100,911	6,462	113,744	106,633	24,279	9,706
" English	939	24,591	31,460	...	17,741	41,993	10,808	12,489
Spanish Stripes	882	24,006	26,190	408	24,937	36,365	20,190	22,364
Medium and Broad Cloths	882	13,093	15,001	49	9,431	19,571	22,876	27,522
Camlets	1,651	58,997	61,552	1,620	67,907	48,063	30,631	20,267
Long Ellis	1,770	47,099	43,211	1,700	60,180	51,777	31,220	22,148
Lastings	3,317	66,639	74,841	560	67,679	94,312	81,826	72,619
" Crape	40	1,260	910	...	520	1,020	1,488	860
Lastings, Cotton & Italians	14,875	302,470	390,574	2,350	195,262	864,848	391,261	552,422
Lustres, Plain	330	3,526	1,209	...	2,202	3,376	278	508
Figured Orleans	618	18,643	21,510	330	10,776	20,206	27,659	27,487
Lustres, Crape	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,050	...
Lead in Pigs	1,096	95,964	66,771	181	137,294	111,734	64,826	54,633
Iron—Nail Rod	2,290	105,424	96,421	840	158,360	210,813	120,997	159,308

† Including English and Dutch 12-lbs.

* Exclusive of undeclared Import Cargoes per *Gleneagles, Preussen, Diomed, Iraouaddy* and *Bellerophon*. Import Cargoes declared during interval, *Glenlyon, Albany, Ganges*, and additional ex *Antenor*.

COMMERCIAL POSTSCRIPT.

24TH AUGUST, 1889.

EXCHANGE.—On London—Telegraphic Transfers, 4s. 2½d. Bank Bills, demand, 4s. 2½d. Bank Bills, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. First-Class Credits to Banks, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d.; 6 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. Private and Documentary, 4 months' sight, 4s. 3½d., 6 months' sight, 4s. 3½d. On France—Bank Bills, demand, Fcs. 5.31; Credits and Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight, 5.43; 6 months' sight, 5.46. On New York—Credits and Documentary Bills 4 months' sight, 95½. On Hongkong—Telegraphic Transfers, 27½; Private Bills, 3 days' sight, 28. On Bombay—Telegraphic Transfers, Rs. 310½; Calcutta, Rs. 310½. Bullion—Gold Bars, Peking, 98 touch, £231.00. Silver Bars, £111.20. Mexican dollars, £73.25. Copper Cash, 1,380. Native Interest, mace 3.50.

SHARES.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation.—The only transaction reported on our market is a cash sale at 180 per cent. premium. The meeting of shareholders was held in Hongkong to-day, and the report and accounts were passed. New Oriental Bank Corporation, Ltd.—Shares have been sold at £10.15.0 and exchange 4/28.

SHIPPING.—Shanghai Tug Boat shares have been sold at £84, and Taku Tug and Lighter shares at 150 Tientsiu Taels. Indo-Chinas are offering at £37.

DOCKS.—Footings have been sold at £25, and are wanted at that rate.

GAS.—Shanghai shares are wanted at £180, but are held for £184.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Straits have been sold at \$24. North-Chinas are wanted at £330. Unions are obtainable at \$100, and Yangtzes at \$96.

FIRE INSURANCE.—Hongkongs have changed hands at \$382½, Chinas have been sold at \$84 to \$83½, and are wanted, Straits have been placed at \$18.

WHARVES.—Business has been done in Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares at £217½ cum, and £210 ex div.; in Birt's Wharf shares at £36, in Footing Wharf and Godown shares at £85 to £7½ cash, £86 to £87½ for 31st August, and £87 to £90 for 31st December; and in Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown at £165.

MINING.—Sheridans have been sold at £219 to £220, and Selamas \$2 paid up at \$3 to \$3.75.

CARGO BOATS.—Shanghais have been placed at £172½ and 173.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Business has been transacted in Shanghai Waterworks' shares, old at £32, and new at £25½ and 26; in Perak Sugar Cultivation shares at £25, in Hall & Holtz Co-operative shares at £27, in Shanghai Land Investment shares at £36 and 35, and in Shanghai Horse Bazaar shares at £55 for delivery on 31st December. Perak Sugar shares are wanted at £25, and Land Investment shares at £35.

SHARES.	No.	Value.	Paid up.	POSITION PER LAST REPORT.			LAST DIVIDEND, &c.		CASH QUOTATIONS.		
				Reserve.	At Working Account.	Date.	To Shareholders.	When pd. or due.	Closing.	Taels.	
Banks.											
Hongkong & Shanghai Bank Co	60,000	\$125	\$125	\$4,400,000	\$70,307.32	30 June 89	* £1½	25 Feb. 89	180 ½ pr.	255.50	
New Oriental Bank Corp., Ltd.	54,700	£10	£10	£170,416.4	22,511.12.11	31 Mar. 89	* 3 %	9 July 89	£10½	50.96	
Shipping.											
Shanghai Tug Boat Co., Ltd. ...	1,000	¥100	¥100	.....	¥2,488.76	31 Dec. 88	|| 3 %	11 Jan. 89	...	84.00	
Indo-China Steam Nav. Co. ...	49,589	£10	£10	22,445.16.10	£1,606.14.9	31 Dec. 88	+ ¥2.98	12 July 89	...	37.00	
Shanghai Shipping Co.	150	¥1,000	¥1,000	.....	¥41,000.00	30 June 89	* 5 %	26 July 89	...	400.00	
China Shippers' Mutual S.N. Co.	7,662	£20	£13	£33,425.9.10	£2,826.10.6	31 Dec. 87	+ ¥4.97	1 Jan. 89	£13.10	64.00	
Taku Tug and Lighter Co.	2,500	¥100	¥100	¥20,000.00	¥23,582.97	31 Dec. 88	* 5 %	28 Feb. 88	...	T. 150.00	
Docks.											
Shanghai Dock Co.	440	¥500	¥500	¥18,000	¥552.77	30 June 89	* 2½ %	5 July 89	...	388.00	
Footung Dock Co.	950	¥100	¥100	.....	¥12,458.70	31 Dec. 88	* 5 %	14 Jan. 88	...	25.00	
Gas.											
Shanghai Gas Co.	2,000	¥100	¥100	¥70,000.00	¥2,254.96	31 Dec. 88	* 6 %	9 July 89	...	184.00	
Compagnie du Gaz	500	¥100	¥100	¥19,647.18	¥89.96	31 Dec. 88	* 5½ %	3 July 89	...	145.00	
Insurance (Marine.)											
China Traders' Ins. Co., Ltd. ...	24,000	\$83.33	\$25	\$500,000.00	\$261,119.28	30 Apr. 88	20 %	4 Sept. 88	¥77.50	56.58	
North-China Ins. Co., Ltd.	5,000	£200	£50	£320,000.00	£257,780.36	31 Dec. 88	+ ¥26.83	27 Apr. 89	...	330.00	
Union Ins. Society of Canton Ltd.	10,000	£250	£25	\$696,500.00	\$484,923.17	30 June 88	+ 20 %	17 Oct. 88	£100.00	73.00	
Yangtze Insurance Association Ltd.	8,000	£25	£25	£139,610.62	.....	3 Apr. 89	* 3½ %	18 Jan. 89	...	96.00	
Chinese Insurance Co., Limited	1,500	\$1,000	\$200	\$28,711.50	\$15,285.84	31 Dec. 87	* 3 %	2 Apr. 88	£155	113.15	
Canton Insurance Office	10,000	£250	£50	\$304,000.00	\$467,321.48	30 Sep. 88	+ 10 %	8 Jan. 89	£138.25	100.92	
Straits Insurance Co., Limited.	30,000	\$100	\$20	\$115,000	\$113,000.00	31 Dec. 88	* 5 %	18 April 89	£24	17.52	
Insurance (Fire.)											
Hongkong Fire Ins. Co., Limited	8,000	£250	£50	\$1,031,486	\$326,787.88	31 Dec. 88	+ 33 %	4 Mar. 89	¥382.50	279.22	
China Fire Ins. Co., Limited ...	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$650,000	\$163,443.29	31 Dec. 88	+ 25 %	6 Mar. 89	£84	61.32	
Straits Fire Insurance Co., Ltd.	20,000	\$100	\$20	\$13,000.00	\$54,215.26	31 Dec. 88	+ 8 %	1 Mar. 89	£18	13.14	
Singapore Insurance Co., Ltd. ...	29,176	\$100	\$20	\$11,875.91	\$132,507.27	31 Dec. 88	+ 5½ %	27 Apr. 89	£16	11.68	
Wharfs.											
Shanghai & H'kew Wharf Co. ...	2,867	¥100	¥100	¥87,589.75	¥1,786.71	31 Dec. 88	* 6 %	21 Aug. 89	...	210.00	
Birt's Wharf Hide-Curing and Wool-Cleaning Company...	2,100	¥50	¥50	¥3,449.46	¥1844.31	31 Oct. 87	* 3½ %	18 May 89	...	36.00	
Footung Wharf & Godown Co.	2,300	¥100	¥100	¥12,000	¥1,949.08	31 Dec. 88	+ 4 %	6 Feb. 89	...	87.00	
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited.	17,000	\$100	\$100	.....	\$2,755.25	31 Dec. 88	+ 5 %	6 Mar. 89	£165	120.45	
Mining.											
Sheridan Mining Co.	2,800	¥100	¥100	¥29,125.85	.....	31 Jan. 89	|| ¥5	23 Apr. 89	...	220.00	
Mendota Mining Co.	3,000	¥100	¥100	¥26,107.90	.....	31 Jan. 89	¥3	31 Dec. 87	...	220.00	
Selama Tin Mining Co., Ltd. ...	120,000	\$5	\$2	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	\$3.75	2.74	
Do. do.	20,000	\$5	\$5	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	\$6	4.38	
Cargo Boats.											
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.	1,000	¥200	¥200	¥3,003.47	¥2,834.25	31 Dec. 88	* 3 %	2 Aug. 89	...	173.00	
Co-operative Cargo Boat Co. ...	1,000	¥100	¥100	¥2,000.00	¥1,781.79	31 Dec. 88	+ 3 %	28 Feb. 89	...	50.00	
Miscellaneous.											
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd.	6,000	£20	£20	£5,000.00	£1,304.9.10	31 Dec. 87	* 3 %	1 Aug. 89	£32.0.0	152.08	
Do. New Shares.	1,200	£20	£15	.....	.....	.....	* 3 %	1 Aug. 89	£26.0.0	123.56	
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ltd.	5,000	¥50	¥50	.....	¥12,333.69	31 Dec. 88	None.	None.	...	24.00	
Hall & Holtz Co-operative Co., Ltd.	6,000	¥50	¥50	.....	¥15,000.00	3 Feb. 89	¥2½	1 May 88	...	27.00	
Japan Brewery Co., Ltd.	667	\$100	\$100	.....	\$4,247.63	31 Dec. 88	.....	.....	£125	91.25	
New Shanghai Electric Co., Ltd.	300	¥100	¥100	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	...	100.00	
Sb. Land Investment Co., Ltd.	20,000	¥50	¥30	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	...	35.00	
J. Llewellyn & Co., Ltd.	1,200	\$100	\$100	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	£117.50	86.66	
Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ltd.	1,800	¥50	¥50	.....	.....	.....	First year.	.....	...	53.00	

LOANS.	Amount of Loan.	Outstanding.	Nominal Value.	Rate of Interest.	When Payable.	Closing.
Shanghai Mun. Debentures—Issue 1883	¥45,000.00	¥45,000.00	¥100	7 %	Dec. & June.	¥105 nom.
Do. 1885	¥30,000.00	¥30,000.00	¥100	7 %	Do.	¥105 ..
Do. 1888	¥70,000.00	¥70,000.00	¥100	6 %	Do.	¥103 ..
China Merchants' S.N. Co. Debentures	£300,000	£221,000	£100	7 %	Quarterly	£106(a) ¥512.64
Lyceum Theatre Debentures	...	...	¥25	* 4 %	7 Jan. '89	¥12.00
Chinese Imp. Government Loan 1884 B	\$1,394,700.14	\$418,410.04	\$500	8 %	30th June.	\$505 (a) ¥368.65
Do. do. 1884 C	\$1,594,700.14	\$1,315,760.11	\$500	8 %	15th Oct.	\$510 (a) ¥372.30
Do. do. 1886 E	S. ¥767,200.00	¥751,200.00	¥250	7 %	Mar. & Sept.	¥287½ (a)

* For half-year. || For quarter year. † For year. ‡ A deficit. § Reserve for equalization of dividends. (a) Exclusive of accrued interest.